A HISTORY OF
GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

1868 · 1957

By GEORGE W. DEXTER

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Published by
GEORGE W. KING PRINTING COMPANY

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Minister

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Prologue

Browsing among the records of the three Methodist Churches which later consolidated, and reliving the four score and nine years encompassed is an experience one would care to share with anyone interested in such a pastime.

Effort has been made to deal with the several corporate bodies in succession, and to group the story around the several pastorates. There are many names—clerical and lay. In many cases too few details are available; nor can adequate credit be given to many of the worthies, especially in the latter years. So many must be left unnamed. All that has been said of many is still too little. Chronologically some periods must be crossed several times because the congregations were separate then, but how each church met the issues holds our interest. How much poorer we would have been except for the great ministries recalled by such a search!

First of all, I wish to express gratitude for the discernment of the late William C. Perkins, who originated the idea of perpetuating the cherished histories of the original churches, which was the inspiration for this undertaking, and who began the assembly of data. To Dr. William A. Keese, and Bishop James H. Straughn, who criticized and corrected, and to others whose memories formed a part of the story, I owe thanks. If the reception can match the cordiality of assistance in preparation, the reward will be sufficient.

G. W. D.

I.

Introduction

At the northern crossroads of Baltimore—Charles and Belvedere—stands the colonial brick structure of Grace Methodist Church whose white symmetrical spire by day, and flood lighted tower by night, points upward! Unlike Jonah's gourd, it did not grow in a night. The love, sacrifice and prayer of 89 years have gone into it. Its roots go deep, and are firmly entrenched in the social, educational, business, professional and religious life of the City.

In the narthex, at the right of the Charles Street entrance is a plaque which reads:

GRACE
METHODIST CHURCH
ERECTED TO
THE GLORY OF GOD
A.D. 1951-

Continuing The Cherished Histories of
The Three Original Churches
Which were known as

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
organized October 17, 1868

Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church
organized April 3, 1896

North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church
organized October 28, 1893

"For we are labourers together with God."

1 Cor. 3-9

Grace and Roland Park Churches had merged in 1927 and the North Baltimore Church had become a part of the consolidation in 1946. Thus in a long span of years, three different Methodist congregations in different parts of the City, and at different times had been brought together, to which had been added those who had

come from many other churches of many other denominations, and those who had been unaffiliated, to constitute the present membership.

The various branches of Methodism, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, had united in 1939 into one coalescent body known as "The Methodist Church". This rendered the consolidation of the local churches desirable, and they flowed together harmoniously and infused new life and activity. A review of available records indicates gradual as well as persistent growth and loyalty of membership worthy of emulation.

Carlyle reminds us: "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." It seems even more so in church history.

II.

Grace Methodist Church

The war between the States had ended and President Andrew Johnson was wrestling with the problems of Reconstruction. The population of Baltimore was about 267,000, and extending rapidly toward the northwest. Our forebears were alert to the situation. Scharf's History of Baltimore City and County says: "Lafayette Square was a mere enclosure with here and there a primitive forest tree standing." No church yet graced its borders.

On the evening of the tenth of October, 1868, a meeting to discuss the need of a church, was held at the residence of James S. Hagerty, on Lanvale Street near Carrollton Avenue. Those present were: James S. Hagerty, William J. Hooper, George V. Keen, V. V. Klinefelter, J. Wesley Krebs, Edward F. Brooks, T. S. Clark, Benjamin W. Corkran, Theodore Mottu, H. P. Chandlee, the Rev. S. A. Wilson, Henry W. Griffin, Thomas J. Fluharty, George H. Matthews, the Rev. William H. Laney, Rev. Mr. Chaney and Isaac Matthews. A lot for a place of worship was selected and a committee named to negotiate for it. A second meeting was held at the same place on October 17th, at which time it was decided to erect a frame chapel and organize a Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday School. At the third meeting on October 24, 1868, the committee reported the purchase of the lot selected, being 75 feet on Lafayette Avenue and 150 feet on Carrollton Avenue, by the payment of $500 and the execution of a note for the balance. The plan of the building committee was approved and the erection of a frame chapel 36 feet by 50 feet was authorized, and work thereon started on October 26, 1868. "A sum amounting to upwards of $1700 was subscribed."

A committee was selected to canvas the neighborhood for Sunday School prospects. "A prayer meeting was organized which met until completion of the Chapel at the home of J. H. B. Boyd, Lafayette and Arlington Avenues, it being the first house erected in the neighborhood." The pulpit was filled by various supply ministers until the Spring, when a regular pastor was supplied by the Baltimore Conference. "The Church was fully organized from the start with all that appertains to a M. E. Church."

The Chapel at the northwest corner of Carrollton and Lafayette Avenues was opened and dedicated on January 31, 1869. It was described as "a neat well proportioned structure, not devoid of artistic taste in exterior, blending the rural with the City style of architecture"; the interior as—"tasty, and not inelegant in its order of arrangement, well adapted to use of the congregation and Sunday School, with carpeted floors, frescoed walls and harmonizing curtains, making the general tone becoming and in good taste." Rev. Dr. De Hass preached in the morning, the Rev. E. M. Speake, in the afternoon, and the Rev. Andrew Longacre in the evening.

"The gallery on the east end of the Chapel was supported by two pillars which had served a similar purpose at the old Eutaw M. E. Church." A cabinet organ was placed in the gallery for the use of the choir. Samuel F. Sanders was Organist and Choir Director and discharged his duties faithfully for many years thereafter.

On February 7, 1869, the Sunday School was organized, James S. Hagerty and V. V. Klinefelter were elected superintendents. With a corps of officers and teachers, they began the instruction of 150 children. Emphasis of the advantages of the Sunday School was stressed from the beginning, and became the basis of a promising future.

WILLIAM F. WARD, 1869-1872

In the Spring of 1869, the Rev. William F. Ward was appointed to Grace Chapel by the Baltimore Conference and became the first pastor. A parsonage was obtained for him. The first Quarterly Conference was held on April 7, 1869. Class leaders were selected and classes organized. The first Trustees were William J. Hooper, Theodore Mottu, Edward F. Brooks, Edward L. Clark, H. P. Chandlee, Theodore Hooper, and Thomas J. Fluharty. The first Stewards were: G. V. Keen, J. W. Krebs, J. S. Hagerty, V. V. Klinefelter and B. W. Corkran. At the first Trustees meeting, a committee was named to prepare an Act of Incorporation, and the advantages of a permanent edifice was discussed. Auxiliary branches of the Church were added. The cause of Missions had a place. The Ladies' Aid Society was formed and became efficient. At a subsequent meeting, the erection of a new building was decided, and a building committee, of which William J. Hooper was chairman, was appointed. A new lot fronting 91 feet on the south side of Lanvale Street and 150 feet on the east side of Carrollton Avenue was

selected. An exchange was made of the old lot as a part of the purchase consideration of the new lot. A stone Chapel, upon plans furnished by Dixon and Carson was built on the south end of the lot facing on Carrollton Avenue. It was begun in August, 1871. and was completed in June, 1872.

In the Spring of 1872, upon the expiration of the three year term allowed by the Baltimore Conference, the very successful pastorate of the Rev. William F. Ward ended, before the completion of the building, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Edward J. Gray.

EDWARD J. GRAY, 1872-1874

The new Chapel was opened for worship on June 16, 1872. Bishop Jesse T. Peck delivered the morning discourse. The Rev. J. Sparhawk Jones, of Brown Memorial Church, occupied the pulpit in the afternoon. On the following Sunday, June 23rd, 1872, the Rev. William F. Ward, the first pastor, preached at the morning service and "dedicated the Chapel to the service of the Most High". The Chapel was "built of stone partially dressed and presented a substantial exterior. The interior comprised an upper and lower room, the latter was an audience and lecture room for the use of the congregation, and was a beautiful place of worship. The upper room with its arching ceiling was designed for the use of the Sunday School." "A final service was held in the Old Chapel, which was sold to a friend, who moved it to a suburban village for religious purposes". This lot later became the site of the State Normal School.

The Rev. Edward J. Gray served the station for two years, "marked by growth of membership and spiritual tone", when he was called to the Presidency of Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport, Pa., and by appointment of the Baltimore Conference was succeeded by the Rev. Lucien B. Carpenter.

LUCIEN B. CARPENTER, 1874-1877

The congregations kept at capacity. The neighborhood had expanded, imposing demands for larger quarters for the progress of the work. The pastor presented the situation to the Official Board on October 5, 1874, and a building committee composed of Thos. J. Fluharty, J. W. Flack, V. V. Klinefelter, John A. Moss and George V. Keen, devised a plan of action. On October 27th, the matter was presented to a membership meeting which decided the time was ripe for the construction of a new building. The committee

proceeded to engage an architect, and to prepare plans, specifications, and an estimate of costs. On the following Sunday, the pastor delivered an eloquent sermon applicable to the necessity of a new church and the congregation responded by subscriptions of $45,000.

At a membership meeting duly called on November 16, 1874, John A. Moss, Baltis H. Kennard, John A. Shekells, Robert Wilson, V. V. Klinefelter, William J. Hooper, Edward L. Clark, Thomas J. Fluharty and Samuel F. Sanders were elected Trustees, and in connection therewith adopted an Act of Incorporation in the name of "Trustees of Grace Methodist Church of Baltimore City".

The Official Board met on November 23, 1874. Plans and specifications prepared by Frank E. Davis were adopted, and he was employed as architect. The contract for the erection of the new church was awarded to William T. Markland and Brother. Ground was broken for the building on December 23, 1874. No services were held at the laying of the cornerstone, but the usual relics were deposited. The construction progressed rapidly and the new building was enclosed in early October 1875. The parlor or lecture room on the first floor was gotten in readiness and a supper was served on October 13th and 14th, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society.

The Young Peoples' Musical Union of Grace Church was organized. This association did much to attract the youth of the neighborhood and became a valuable auxiliary by affording exemplary social occasions under the fostering care of the church.

On Sunday, October 17th, the congregation assembled in the parlor of the new church and services were held morning and evening at which the pastor preached. Sunday School held its session earlier that day, the Chapel being altered to make four classrooms and a central room for prayer and business meetings.

On Sunday, February 20, 1876, (the National Centennial Year) the "imposing stone structure with its Gothic grandeur, its stately proportions, its warmth of interior, its magnificent sanctuary and its churchly lines" was opened for service and solemnly dedicated to Divine Worship. The pastor arranged three interesting services to assemblies exceeding the capacity of the building. Samuel F. Sanders, Musical Director, and the Choir rendered beautiful music. Bishop Edward R. Ames dedicated the church in a very impressive manner and Bishop Matthew Simpson preached the morning sermon. In the afternoon Rev. Dr. J. O. Peck was the preacher. In the evening Rev. Dr. John P. Newman preached; Bishop Simpson concluded the

evening services "delivering to the Trustees the trusts confided to them".

Scharf's History of Baltimore City and County says of Grace Methodist Church: "The church is one of the handsomest ecclesiastical edifices in the City, and cost with the lot and improvements about $150,000."

"In a little over seven years, this area had become a beautiful and inviting part of the City. The State Normal School had been built on the old lot at Carrollton and Lafayette Avenues; the Church of the Ascension (Protestant Episcopal) had built a beautiful marble structure at the north east corner of Lafayette Square; and the First English Lutheran Church, also of marble, had been erected at Lanvale and Fremont Streets. At Lanvale and Carrollton now stood the magnificent sanctuary of Grace M. E. Church with its Gothic lines and stately spire."

"For purposes of revenue, a yearly rental was affixed to the pews of the Church. The plan met with ready acceptance and exceeded the most sanguine expectations. It is due, however to history to note that Grace Church was not strictly a pew church."

The notable pastorate of Rev. Mr. Carpenter, the three years having expired, came to an end. "Truly the Lord had wrought a great work."

ALEXANDER E. GIBSON, 1877-1880

The next pastor was Rev. Dr. Alexander E. Gibson, who is described as "vigorous, tactful, eloquent and methodical". All branches of the church were encouraged and developed.

While Mr. Gibson was pastor, D. L. Moody held a series of meetings in Baltimore. One was held at Grace Church, which was largely attended. Many came into the church following these meetings. The church debt was $65,000. An 8% $60,000 mortgage upon the church property, guaranteed by Messrs. William J. Hooper, Geo. V. Keen, James S. Hagerty and James W. Flack, was executed, and the balance was raised. Subsequently $15,000 was paid, and an old ground rent of $5,000 was extinguished, which reduced the debt to $45,000. A redeemable ground rent of $1800 (Value $30,000) was created, and a new mortgage of $15,000 was placed on the church property to liquidate the $45,000 mortgage, which reduced the annual interest from $4800 to $2700.

"At this time the Recording Steward presented by request a statement of costs from the beginning to the present—a period of about 8½ years, which was spread upon the record:

Total cost of Church Building and Furniture	$ 67,029.48
Total cost of Chapel Improvement arising out of Church Erection	2,601.45
Sum received from Trustees	4,496.26
Sum received of Interest	375.00
	$ 74,502.19
Cost of Lot—Frame Chapel	$ 1,289.82
Cost of Building—Frame Chapel	5,613.54
Cost of Building—Stone Chapel	43,833.04
	$125,238.59
Estimated expenses in conducting the Church—	
Expenses 3 years in Frame Chapel @ $3000	$ 9,000.00
Expenses 3 years in Stone Chapel @ $4000	12,000.00
Expenses 2½ years in Main Church @ $10,000	25,000.00
	$171,238.59
In addition sums given to other causes increased the grand total to	$200,000.00"

The Baltimore Conference honored Grace Church by meeting there in the Spring of 1879, Bishop W. L. Harris presiding.

LOUIS C. MILLER, 1880-1883

The term of Dr. Gibson having expired, by appointment of the Conference, the Rev. Louis C. Miller became the new pastor, and remained three years. He was younger than his predecessors, but met previous standards, and "worthily discharged the duties which devolved upon him". He attended and maintained the sessions of the Sunday School, Prayer meetings and Ladies' Aid Society. He organized the Sunday morning Young Men's Prayer meeting which proved influential. Upon retirement of James S. Hagerty, James W. Flack became Superintendent of the Sunday School. Five thousand dollars was paid on the mortgage debt.

In 1881, President Garfield was shot by an assassin and lingered for several months. A memorial service was held in Grace Church upon his demise.

J. St. Clair Neal, 1883-1886

In the Spring of 1883, the Rev. J. St. Clair Neal became the pastor of Grace Church and "soon won his way to the hearts of his people by tact and wisdom". In 1884, the Methodist American Centennial was celebrated here in commemoration of the organization of the Methodist Church at Baltimore December 24, 1784, (the Christmas Conference). Some of the meetings of this notable convocation were held at Grace Church, especially was it selected for the Sunday School features. On May 3, 1885, the subscriptions and collections amounted to $11,050 for Church debt and current expenses. The exterior of the Church was painted. The auxiliary societies were doing effective work and the loyalty of the Ladies' Aid Society which up to this time had raised $15,000 was recorded. The work of Mrs. George V. Keen, the first president, and her successors was mentioned with gratitude. On Sunday, June 7, 1885, seventy-five were taken into the membership. The day was celebrated with floral offerings, special music and impressive services.

Elbert S. Todd, 1886-1891

Under the Conference three year rule Rev. Dr. Neal retired, and in 1886 the Rev. Elbert S. Todd transferred from the East New York Conference by request of the Official Board of Grace Church. The Rev. T. L. Poulson served until the new pastor arrived. Dr. Todd was characterized as "judicious, energetic, conscientious, interesting and entertaining". All departments of Grace Church were now active, especially the Sunday School. To provide finances, the Sinking Fund Association of Grace Church was formed with William C. Rouse, President. It was assigned the duty of collecting the subscriptions of $11,050 on May 31, 1885. It collected $13,000, and $10,000 was applied to the Mortgage and the balance to current and other necessary expenses.

The desirability of a parsonage was suggested. A committee from the Sinking Fund Group with J. W. Putts and others fostered a "Gentleman's Fair", and raised $3,400. They bought the adjoining lot on Lanvale Street for $3,000 and deeded it to the Trustees for the purpose of a parsonage. A building committee with William C. Rouse, Chairman, was appointed and raised a fund of $5,000. Frank E. Davis, who designed the church, was again the architect, and the builder was Walter S. Brown. The parsonage contract dated October 3, 1887 was for $10,342. Work was commenced in September 1887

and finished in May 1888. It was furnished by the Ladies' Aid Society. The lot and parsonage cost approximately $14,000 and $8,000 was already in hand, leaving a deficit of $6,000. This balance was borrowed on a mortgage and the builder was paid in full. "The parsonage comports with the order and style of the main edifice. The church was then complete in organization, strong in numbers, and healthy in religious tone."

The Baltimore Conference met in Grace Church in 1889, under the direction of Bishop C. D. Foss.

RICHARD HARCOURT, 1891-1896

The General Conference having lengthened the term of service to five years, Dr. Todd retired in 1891, when Rev. Dr. Richard Harcourt became the Grace pastor. "With superior gifts of eloquence and a broad conception of the sphere of great ministry, he maintained the high standard of his predecessors." During his ministry, at the twenty-fifth anniversary, an attractive manual of the Church was published containing a history of the Church up to that time, written by Baltis H. Kennard, together with a roster of the Church membership. Another financial statement appears at that time (June 1891).

"Total cost of buildings and estimated expenses for 8½ years	$171,238.59
Cost of Parsonage	14,000.00
Estimated expenses for 14 years for conducting Church at $10,000 per year	140,000.00
Total outlay	$325,238.59
Paid	289,238.59
Debt remaining	$ 36,000.00"

On January 21, 1894, the *Sunday American* anticipated the program for the 25th anniversary of Grace Church to be held on Sunday, January 28, 1894 and published a two column history of the Church up to that time, including a picture of the Church and Parsonage and also of the pastor, Dr. Richard Harcourt. Dr. Harcourt served five years and was succeeded by Rev. Dr. George W. Miller in 1896.

GEORGE W. MILLER, 1896-1900

The various departments of the church continued to prosper. Appreciation was expressed for the work of William C. Rouse, as

Superintendent of the Sunday School, Mrs. John Neff, as President of the Ladies' Aid Society, and Sewell S. Watts, President of the Epworth League. After four years, Dr. Miller retired because of ill health in 1900.

DON S. COLT, 1900-1905

Rev. Dr. Don S. Colt of Pittsburgh, Pa., was called to Grace Church. He is characterized as "abundant in labors, patient and tender as a pastor, earnest and impassioned as a preacher, and made full proof of his ministry." Several successful revival meetings were held under his direction. All branches of the church prospered during his administration. In April 1902, the Baltimore Conference held its sessions in Grace Church, the Chairman being Bishop E. G. Andrews.

JOHN Y. DOBBINS, 1905-1908

Upon the expiration of the term of rewarding service of Dr. Colt in the spring of 1905, Rev. Dr. John Y. Dobbins was called to Grace Church. He conducted the affairs of the Church successfully and was well liked. It became necessary on account of ill health to resign in November 1907, but he continued with the Church until the spring of 1908.

GEORGE R. GROSE, 1908-1913

Rev. Dr. George R. Grose was called from Lynn, Mass. to begin a notable pastorate at Grace Church. The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in Baltimore in May 1908, and many prominent ministers were heard in the Grace pulpit during that month. Dr. Grose served five years as a "faithful pastor, wise administrator and eloquent and effective minister". The Church debt was reduced, and the beautiful memorial windows were installed at that time. In 1913, he became President of De Pauw University, at Greencastle, Ind., and left amid general regret. Dr. Grose later became a Bishop.

It was during this period that the Grachur Club was formed. On February 4, 1912, fourteen young men of Grace Church Sunday School joined together to organize it. They bought three acres on the Magothy River and built a club house and other necessary buildings. It is "An organization of men founded to promote, in a higher degree, the realization of the Human Ideal by building strong

bodies, creating alert minds, elevating morality, — and, by unceasing service, loyalty and comradeship — not within the confines of its membership alone, but also in behalf of the community, the City and the Country". Claude B. Whitby, a faithful member and Sunday School teacher conceived the idea, and as its President, labored for years to effectuate its three fold purpose. In 1916, a club room was opened at the old West Branch Y. M. C. A. at Baltimore and Carey Streets, which became a fine influence for years in that part of the City. The Club grew and expanded until its membership included many of the younger men, not only of Grace Church but of many different churches of many denominations. The anniversary of its founding was observed regularly in the Grace Church calendar for many years. The Club still attracts those who are like minded.

McIlyar H. Lichliter, 1913-1916

The successor of Dr. Grose was Rev. Dr. McIlyar H. Lichliter, who came from the Maple Ave. Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Lichliter attracted large audiences and furthered the growth of the Church. He encouraged the Young people of the Sunday School and Epworth League. It was during this period that the social hall was remodelled and redecorated. The forty-fifth anniversary of the Church was celebrated on October 24, 1913. A brief review of its history up to June 20, 1876 was prepared and read by E. Walter Giles.

The Baltimore Conference met at Grace Church in April 1915. The presiding officer was Bishop William Burt. The Conference minutes report the membership of Grace Church as 1045 and the Sunday School enrollment as 912.

In October 1915, Dr. Lichliter accepted a call to Epworth Memorial Church, Cleveland, Ohio. The Baltimore Conference supplied preachers until the next session when the Rev. Robert A. Colpitts of Springfield, Mass. was called in 1916, to become the Grace Church pastor.

Robert A. Colpitts, 1916-1917

The Billy Sunday Campaign came in 1916, and Robert F. Stanton, E. Walter Giles and Wilbur H. Gorsuch were the committee appointed to represent Grace Church. Dr. Colpitts was requested to begin his pastorate the first week in April in order that the results of the Billy Sunday campaign might be conserved. Serious illness of

both Dr. Colpitts and his wife interfered with his pastoral duties and despite extended vacations, he was forced to relinquish service in October 1916 and was granted a leave of absence with pay until the next conference, his resignation being in the hands of District Superintendent Barnes. It was not accepted until February 1917, when disability became certain. Dr. J. Edwin Amos proved to be a very valuable assistant during this period.

S. Reese Murray, 1916-1917

In November 1916, the Rev. S. Reese Murray was appointed by Bishop McDowell to serve as supply until the next conference, which he performed quite acceptably, and was much appreciated.

Appreciation of the ability and loyalty of the Official Board and the officers of the auxiliary organizations was again heard; William C. Rouse, Albert C. Tolson, Wilbur H. Gorsuch, William R. McClayton and John C. Tolson, of the Sunday School; Mrs. George V. Keen, Mrs. V. V. Klinefelter, Mrs. W. C. Stewart, and Mrs. W. E. F. Taylor of the Ladies' Aid Society; Mrs. Sarah Walker, Mrs. A. H. Eaton and Mrs. John T. King of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society; Mrs. John Neff and Mrs. John T. Lowe of the Woman's Home Missionary Society; and others, all of whom had rendered faithful and effective services.

Loren M. Edwards, 1917-1920

In April, 1917, Rev. Dr. Loren M. Edwards came to Grace Church from the Everhart Memorial M. E. Church, Mishawaka, Indiana. First World War conditions prevailed and changes were necessary. One hundred and four names appeared on the Honor Roll of those in the Armed Services. Red Cross work was carried on in Grace Chapter. Two of the boys of Grace Church, Leroy R. Disney and H. Stanley Sharp, paid the Supreme Sacrifice. On November 9, 1917, Miss Jenny Lind Greene, organist and Choir Leader, whose unbroken attendance lasted 17 years, passed away, and was succeeded by Howard J. Thatcher. However the membership increased, "all indebtedness was paid, the cancelled note and mortgage and all legal papers appertaining being presented to the Official Board on February 4, 1918." Successful evangelical meetings were held at this time. The pastor was granted a leave of absence to serve the Y. M. C. A. in France, but was not called upon to serve. In May 1919, the Centenary Campaign for $10,000 each year for five years was

announced, and a committee was named—W. B. Swindell, Chairman, T. J. Watts, Secretary and T. H. O'Connor, Treasurer. The commitment was accepted and paid. In this year, improvements to the organ cost $4,000.

During the week beginning October 19, 1919, the semi-centennial of Grace Church was celebrated fittingly. *The Sun* of October 18, 1919 carried a full account of the proceedings, calling attention to the attendance of five Bishops. An attractive booklet containing a brief history, pictures of the Church and parsonage and of all the ministers who had served until that time. It also contained the program for the celebration, a brief outline of the work of the Sunday School, Epworth League, Ladies' Aid Society, Woman's Missionary Society, the Grachur Club, a roster of the Church officers and a list of members of the Church. Bishops William F. McDowell, William A. Quayle, Adna W. Leonard, Edwin H. Hughes and George R. Grose participated in the celebration, as did also former pastors, Dr. J. St. Clair Neal, Dr. M. H. Lichliter and Dr. Don S. Colt. Thomas J. Fluharty and V. V. Klinefelter, surviving founders of Grace Church, also attended the 50th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Loren M. Edwards prepared and read his poem—"Fifty Golden Years at Grace"; in part as follows:

"*Fifty golden years at Grace:*
Swift the wings of time have flown.
Youth to age has quickly grown,
Bronze from battles for the right,
Strength that gathers in the fight,
Glorify her face.

* * * * * *

Fifty golden years at Grace:
Lord and Master of us all,
Eagerly we hear Thy call,
Consecrate ourselves to Thee,
'Gainst that morn when we shall see
Thy rapturous face."

L. M. E.

Grace Church had become an influence for good all over the City and beyond its borders. Dr. Edwards lived up to the high standard set by his predecessors, and served until 1920, when he accepted a call to Trinity Church, Denver, Colorado. He succeeded Dr. Charles L. Mead, who later became a Bishop.

VICTOR G. MILLS, 1920-1925

A pulpit supply Committee of which Judge Robert L. Stanton was chairman, went to Meriden, Conn., to hear and confer with Rev. Dr. Victor G. Mills. Their report was favorable and the matter was communicated to Bishop McDowell. Dr. Mills visited Grace Church in August 1920, and upon his return announced his acceptance and availability on October 1, 1920.

Shortly after the arrival of the new pastor, a canvas of the 1250 membership was conducted. On February 18, 1922, the Trustees certified that by duly authorized meetings, the charter was amended to make the term of the Trustees four years, and to increase the Stewards to twenty-five, elected annually.

The Baltimore Conference again honored Grace Church by assembling there in 1922, and Bishop McDowell presided at the meetings. In 1924, the Harlem Park Church burned on Thursday, April 3rd, while the Baltimore Conference was in session there, and the Conference convened in Grace Church on Friday, April 4, 1924.

Dr. Mills maintained the activities of those who preceded him. He was an inspired preacher and popular pastor. In July 1925, Dr. Mills announced a call to the New York Ave. M. E. Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. Later he presented his resignation, expressing his continued interest and appreciation, which was accepted with great regret.

CHESTEEN SMITH, 1925-1928

The pulpit supply committee, S. S. Watts, Chairman, arranged for the incoming pastor, Rev. Dr. Chesteen Smith to assume duties on October 1, 1925 as the Grace pastor. He had concluded a successful pastorate at the First Methodist Church, Decatur, Illinois. Bishop Hughes consented to the transfer from the Illinois Conference, and Bishop McDowell, to his reception into the Baltimore Conference. *The Sun* of August 25, 1925 published a full account of the call and acceptance together with a biographical sketch of the new pastor.

On December 31, 1926, the Board of Trustees certified that at duly called meetings, Art. V of the Charter had been amended to provide that with the consent of two-thirds of the members above the age of 21 years who shall attend at duly called meetings, the Trustees were "capable of bargaining and selling, leasing and conveying and of receiving by conveyance or otherwise or of making

any disposition of said property or any other property which may be hereafter acquired by said corporation in as full and effectual manner as any person or corporation may or can do."

On April 18, 1927, because of changed conditions, more fully explained later, the Church and Parsonage at Carrollton Avenue and Lanvale Street with certain reservations, were sold to the Metropolitan M. E. Church of Baltimore City for $110,000 with a payment of $5,000 at the execution of the agreement, and the balance on or before January 3, 1928. *The Sun* of April 21, 1927, gave publicity to the transaction. Later, the purchaser had difficulty in financing, and further consideration of the matter was required, and a revised contract was made. The membership was about 1050 at this time.

In March 1927, an invitation of merger having been received from Roland Park M. E. Church, the Official Board of Grace Church accepted same, and appointed a committee to carry on negotiations. This program was later approved by the Quarterly Conference and by a membership meeting of Grace Church on March 17, 1927.

On September 16, 1927, the Joint Committee met and agreed upon a plan of union as follows:

"The joint committee of Grace Methodist Church and the Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church, having met and very carefully considered the questions involved in the proposed consolidation of the two churches, hereby submit to their respective Quarterly Conference the following recommendations:

"1. That the 'Trustees of Grace Methodist Church of Baltimore City' and the 'Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore County and the State of Maryland" consolidate in accordance with the Articles of Consolidation attached hereto, and create a new organization to be known as 'Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City'.

"2. That the Quarterly Conference of each of the present churches shall designate four trustees of the consolidated church; the ninth trusteeship shall be left temporarily vacant to be filled from the larger constituency of the new enterprise.

"3. That the Quarterly Conference of each of the present churches shall designate not more than fourteen members to serve on the Board of Stewards of the consolidated church, leaving a vacancy of at least three stewards to be filled as the work progresses.

"4. That the new organization shall at once proceed to erect a new church edifice on the present site of the Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church, or in its immediate vicinity.

"5. That the selection of the superintendent and the organization of the Sunday School of the consolidated church be referred to the two pastors and the two present Sunday School superintendents of the two churches.

"6. That the organization and the selection of the officers of the various women's societies of the consolidated church, be referred to the two pastors and the presidents of the various women's societies of the two churches.

"7. a. That on as early a date as possible, after the completion of a legal merger, the two congregations unite for worship in the Roland Park Church; but at no later date than January 8th, 1928.

"b. That the new Official Board shall be in full control of all matters pertaining to the building of the new edifice, and the development of the program of the consolidated church.

"c. That the present Official Board shall be in full control of the affairs of the two local congregations until the final merging of the two congregations into one congregation.

"8. That after the adoption of these recommendations by the respective Quarterly Conferences of the two churches, meetings of the respective congregations be called to act upon the proposed Articles of Consolidation."

Dr. Chesteen Smith, Pastor, Walter B. Swindell, John H. Barrett and Albert C. Tolson represented Grace Church and Dr. B. W. Meeks, Pastor, I. Manning Parsons, S. George Wolf and William E. Thomsen represented Roland Park Church, on the Joint Committee. The plan of union and the Articles of Consolidation were approved and adopted by duly called meetings of the Quarterly Conferences and the membership of both churches on September 28, 1927. Walter B. Swindell, John H. Barrett, William F. Roach, and Albert C. Tolson of Grace Church, and M. F. McCormick, I. Manning Parsons, William E. Thomsen and S. George Wolf of Roland Park Church, pursuant to the plan of union, were elected Trustees of the new corporation known as "Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City". The requirements of the Law of the State of Maryland and the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church having been complied with, and the officers of the Board of Trustees duly authorized, the

Articles of Consolidation were executed and recorded on October 7, 1927.

On September 29, 1927, *The Sun* furnished a detailed account and emphasized the plans for construction of a new building to cost $400,000. Since the plan fixed the effective date for January, 1928, the churches operated separately until that time, the last service at old Grace Church being held on the evening of January 1, 1928, in which the Roland Park congregation was invited to participate.

III.

Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1895, although the country at large was suffering from a severe economic depression, the Roland Park area had developed gradually, and had attracted a group of substantial citizens, but no church had yet appeared.

On October 30, 1895, a Methodist minister, Rev. Dr. Francis J. Wagner called a meeting at his home at Forrest and Upland Roads to consider need for a neighborhood church. Those in addition to Dr. Wagner who came were: Dr. W. W. Davis, Secy. of the Missionary and Church Extension Society, J. F. Leib, W. E. Baitzell, H. B. Danaker, John W. McPherson, W. C. Austin, C. L. Crawford, J. P. Steinbach, and Wilbur C. VanSant. A canvas of the area for potential members and the selection of a lot was discussed. At a subsequent meeting held at the Roland Park Company offices on November 14, 1895, thirty persons were present. Dr. Wagner presided and James E. Ingram, President of the Missionary and Church Extension Society, addressed the meeting. A weekly prayer service was inaugurated. At a later meeting at Dr. Wagner's home, he and Wilbur C. VanSant were requested to attend the Baltimore Conference and secure a pastor. It is due largely to the historical records prepared by Mr. VanSant that much of the organization story and early activities of Roland Park Church, has been preserved.

L. Emory Bennett, 1896-1900

The Rev. L. Emory Bennett was appointed by the Baltimore Conference on March 26, 1896 as the first pastor of Roland Park Church. The formal organization of the Roland Park M. E. Church took place at the home of Dr. Wagner on April 3, 1896. Presiding Elder William M. Ferguson as Chairman. The first members were: Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wagner, Miss Emily A. Wagner, Harry B. Danaker, Mrs. H. Alice Danaker, Mrs. W. H. Gardner, A. A. Brown, Mrs. E. B. Brown, Miss Jennie B. Brown, Wilbur C. VanSant, and Mrs. Carrie N. VanSant.

Not being willing to wait until a more comfortable place of worship could be found, the members held the first public service in the City and Suburban Car Barn on April 12, 1896. There were 24 present. Rev. Mr. Bennett preached and William R. Dorsey served as organist. At the first quarterly conference, F. J. Wagner, A. A. Brown and J. B. H. Jefferson were elected Trustees and Wilbur C. VanSant, H. B. Danaker and Mrs. F. J. Wagner were selected as Stewards. A building Committee was named: L. Emory Bennett, F. J. Wagner, W. C. VanSant, J. P. Steinbach, J. B. H. Jefferson, C. W. Coggins, W. E. Baitzell and H. B. Danaker. Shortly after organization, twelve new members joined. The Sunday School was organized on April 19, 1896, with 17 original members.

The Act of Incorporation of "The Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore County and State of Maryland" is dated July 6, 1896. Frank J. Wagner, Aaron A. Brown, John B. H. Jefferson, Wilbur C. VanSant, John P. Steinbach and L. Emory Bennett executed the document, and became its first Board of Trustees. It was recorded in the Circuit Court of Baltimore County, since Roland Park was a part of Baltimore County at that time.

Services were continued at the Car Barn offices until May 24th, when a large tent was erected at Elmhurst and Hawthorn Roads, where services were continued and the church's social activities were centered through the summer. In October, services were again conducted in the Public Hall of the Roland Park Company. A Ladies' Aid Society was organized with Mrs. M. J. Pope as President. On November 25, 1896, a Christian Endeavor Society was organized with C. W. Coggins as Presiding Officer.

While the building committee was looking for a lot, the Roland Park Company offered to donate a lot 50 feet by 190 feet at the S. E. corner of Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road, which was accepted. Then they purchased the lot to the south of this lot, also 50 feet by 190 feet, for $1,750 for which a mortgage was given. So that both lots were acquired for $1,750, but conditioned upon early construction of a church upon plans approved by the Roland Park Company. The deed for the lots was dated April 19, 1897, and was recorded in Baltimore County.

On December 17, 1896, a contract for building the church was awarded to John Cowan for $6,849 on plans by Wyatt and Nolting, Architects. As soon as the Legislature had validated the charter, a mortgage for $5,000 was given to the City Savings Bank. Ground

for the new building was broken on April 28, 1897, and work was begun at once. *The Sun* of April 29th noted the ground breaking ceremony of the new church, 56 feet by 50 feet, at the S. E. corner of Roland and Oakdale Roads, the pastor, Trustees, Stewards and Building Committee participating. The corner stone was laid on May 15th, by Dr. F. J. Wagner, assisted by the Rev. T. E. Peters and the Rev. Watson Case. The address was made by Rev. Dr. T. P. Frost. The *Baltimore Methodist* of May 20th recorded the details of this occasion. The church was completed and dedicated on October 17, 1897. The sermons were preached by Dr. S. F. Upham of Drew Theological Seminary, and Dr. A. A. Brown of Madison Avenue M. E. Church, Baltimore. Assisting in the service besides those already named were Dr. F. J. Wagner, Dr. J. B. VanMeter and Dr. J. St. Clair Neal. The collection amounted to $3,242. Music was furnished by Mrs. Rudolph Stehl, Mrs. Clinton L. Crawford, H. B. Danaker and William R. Dorsey. The Ladies' Aid Society raised more than $1,000 and provided furnishings for the Church. The *Baltimore Methodist* of October 14th and *The Sun* of October 18th gave generous space to the occasion.

In January 1897, successful revival services were held and twelve new members were added. At the debt raising service held on November 12, 1899, Bishop C. C. McCabe and Dr. L. T. Weideman preached. The sum of $2,490 was collected. Its application to the church debt reduced it to $4,000.

When the four years ministry of Dr. L. Emory Bennett ended, there were 72 members, 11 probationers, and 151 members of the Sunday School. He was succeeded by the Rev. Harold M. Rider, of Drew Theological Seminary, in April 1900.

HAROLD M. RIDER, 1900-1903

He began his ministry at once. His first service was a prayer meeting. He urged the need of a Sunday School room which was discussed and authorized, but its construction was deferred. To the regret of everybody, Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Wagner, who had striven so unceasingly for the establishment of the church, sold their home and removed to California in October, 1901. Shortly thereafter, William R. Dorsey resigned as organist, which necessitated the employment of the first salaried successor. When Rev. Mr. Rider's pastorate came to an end, he was succeeded by Dr. Wilbur V. Mallalieu in April, 1903.

WILBUR V. MALLALIEU, 1903-1910

Dr. Mallalieu was given a reception on April 6th. He urged the construction of the Sunday School Room and Social Hall. In May 1903, a building committee was appointed. Wyatt and Nolting were employed to prepare plans. A new contract was given John Cowan for the construction, to which had to be added heating, lighting, painting, organ alcove and installing organ and furnishings, which totalled $21,553.89. When the contract was executed $10,050 had been subscribed.

On April 24, 1904, the eighth anniversary of the Roland Park Church was celebrated with a sermon by Rev. Dr. Lucien Clark, and an historical sketch by Wilbur C. VanSant. The preacher for the evening service was the Rev. E. L. Watson. In October, 1904, Dr. Mallalieu was given a leave of absence for three months to study in Glasgow, Scotland. During his absence, the pastoral duties were assumed by Dr. Richard Harcourt, formerly of Grace Church. A plan of pew rentals beginning on April 1, 1905 was adopted, and ratified by the Official Board on May 30, 1905. A new organ was purchased and dedicated on June 8, 1905. The architect of the Grace Church organ, S. Archer Gibson, organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church, N. Y. delighted the congregation with an organ recital.

The new building was dedicated on June 25, 1905 with sermons by Bishop Earl Cranston and Dr. W. F. Sheridan. Participating in the service were Dr. C. Herbert Richardson, the Rev. Charles S. Davidson, the Rev. Charles W. Baldwin and Dr. William Osborne. *The Sun* of June 26, 1905 made a full report. Jenny Lind Greene of Grace Church gave an organ recital to an appreciative audience on October 17, 1905. Individual Communion cups were adopted in October 1906. A reduction of the $12,000 mortgage was urged by the pastor and approved by the Official Board in December, 1907. In January, 1908, after sermons by Dr. Frank M. Bristol and Dr. John Krantz, a collection was taken amounting to $6,250 and the debt reduced to $6,000. An organ recital was given by Miss Loraine Holloway on March 24, 1910.

WHITFORD L. MCDOWELL, 1910-1912

The successor of Dr. Mallalieu was Dr. Whitford L. McDowell who came in April, 1910. He had been a District Superintendent. A reception was tendered him and his family. On April 11th a

committee was appointed to purchase a parsonage, and on April 19, 1910, the property at 309 Woodlawn Road was bought for $7,500 and duly approved. A mortgage for that amount was executed. Improvements to the amount of $600 to the parsonage were completed. This increased the total indebtedness to $14,000. Twilight services were held during the summer of 1910. On November 14, 1910, $3,000 was raised and the debt reduced to $11,000.

The early morning Christmas services were inaugurated on December 25, 1910. In 1911, the Young Woman's Mission Circle was organized. In February, 1912, the envelope system for current expenses was put in effect. Dr. McDowell was elected a delegate and attended the General Conference, in Minneapolis, in May 1912. Beginning in September 1912, Dr. McDowell held vesper services at 5 p.m. instead of the 8 p.m. services, which was continued until the spring of 1915 when the evening service was restored. On November 4, 1912, Bishop Cranston selected Dr. McDowell to assume the District Superintendency of the Washington District.

CLAYTON L. SMUCKER, 1912-1913

Dr. Clayton L. Smucker of Pittsburgh, Pa. was transferred to the Baltimore Conference by Bishop Cranston to begin his labors at Roland Park Church on December 1, 1912. In January 1913, the "Men's Club" of Roland Park Church was organized and became very effective. An exchange of pulpits with the Rev. Charles S. McLean of Harrisburg, Pa. made Dr. Smucker's pastorate very brief.

CHARLES S. MCLEAN, 1913-1915

Dr. McLean became the Roland Park pastor on December 1, 1913. The minstrel show in March 1913 created social interest. The Men's Club, George W. Corner, Jr., President, held a banquet on April 15, 1914. On March 28, 1915, the Official Board named a committee to submit plans for additions to the Sunday School Room. At the Baltimore Conference in March 1915, Dr. McLean, whose return had been requested, was transferred to Washington, D. C.

EDWARD L. WATSON, 1915-1925

Dr. Edward L. Watson was appointed to Roland Park Church on April 1, 1915 when he began a pastorate which lasted for a decade. Dr. Watson changed the vesper services to 7 p.m. Christmas carols at 6:30 a.m. were inaugurated on December 25, 1915. The Billy Sunday campaign followed the next year, and the Men's Club

attended in a body on March 30, 1916. A number of new members were enrolled. For a short time in the early part of 1917, Communion services were held every two months, following the Wednesday prayer service. In November 1918, $4,000 was paid on the Church mortgage.

At this time, Roland Park Church had sixteen of its members in World War I. J. William Pulis gave his life for the cause of freedom. In February 1919, the membership subscribed $50,000 to be paid $10,000 each year for five years to the Centenary Fund, which was paid in full in September 1924. The mortgage on the parsonage was paid off the following year by subscriptions plus a loan of $2,175 which was subsequently liquidated. A joint Thanksgiving Service with Roland Park Presbyterian Church was inaugurated. In 1920, extensive additions were made to the Sunday School rooms, which necessitated an increase of the loan to $7,200 although more than $9,000 had been subscribed.

On April 17, 1921, the 25th anniversary of the Church was observed with appropriate services. The preaching in the morning was by Dr. Whitford L. McDowell, former pastor, and in the evening by Rev. Dr. Charles E. Guthrie. Dr. Don S. Colt, District Superintendent, preached on Wednesday evening. On the following Sunday, April 24th, Bishop William F. McDowell, was present and preached at the morning service. An attractive booklet, outlining the program for the several services, registering the church officers, listing the former pastors, and containing a brief resume of the Church history, was made available for the occasion.

This period also witnessed the activities of the various auxiliary organizations of the Church, especially the Sunday School under the leadership of S. George Wolf and William E. Thomsen, and the Ladies' Aid Society under the guidance of Mrs. William E. Thomsen, Mrs. James E. Ingram, and Mrs. H. M. Wagner.

In April 1923, the rental of pews was abolished and a maintenance Fund was substituted by which payment could be continued by those so minded. Robert B. Wagner was elected Treasurer of the Fund. Wilbur C. VanSant became Chairman of the World Service Campaign which raised and forwarded $2,731.44. A Father and Son Banquet was held. Collections for the Y. M. C. A. and Goodwill Industries were taken. Quarterly meetings of the Official Board were ordered. After a notable pastorate, Dr. Watson left to become Editor of the *Washington Christian Advocate.*

BENJAMIN W. MEEKS, 1925-1930

In the spring of 1925, Dr. Benjamin W. Meeks became the Roland Park Pastor. Communion services were held on the first Sunday of each month. The cost of the Church and parsonage repairs, furnishings and garage approximated $13,500. Ten thousand dollars was borrowed on a three year 5½% mortgage. The Young men were urged to assume the duties of ushering. News Letter publicity was begun. The Baltimore Conference minutes record a membership of 335 and a Sunday School enrollment of 267.

The 30th anniversary was observed during the week beginning May 2, 1926. Bishop Charles Wesley Burns of San Francisco, Cal. occupied the pulpit in the morning and Bishop William F. McDowell, of Washington, D. C. in the evening. Bishop Edwin H. Hughes gave his popular lecture, "The Biography of a Boy," on Monday night. A drama, "The Pilgrim and the Book," was given by local talent on Wednesday evening and a Community program and Social hour in which former pastors participated, on Friday evening. On Sunday, May 9th, Bishop Theodore S. Henderson of Cincinnati, Ohio, preached in the morning and Bishop George R. Grose, of Peking, China, formerly of Grace Church, in the evening, all of which is perpetuated in a booklet containing the program and a brief historical sketch. *The Sun* gave generous space to the occasion, headlining the notable speakers participating in the celebration.

S. George Wolf was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Conference. The following year sufficient pledges were taken to liquidate the entire indebtedness. The church also contributed to the cost of the church affiliation survey of Roland Park and Guilford which was made at that time.

In March 1927, when it became known the Grace Methodist Church had under consideration the sale of its properties at Carrollton Avenue and Lanvale Street, the Roland Park M. E. Church proposed consolidation with Grace Church, and named a committee to carry on negotiations. This was approved by the Quarterly Conference and a membership meeting of the Roland Park Church on March 17, 1927. *The Sun* of March 18, 1927 published details of the meetings, stating that Grace Church had more than 1000 members and Roland Park nearly 400.

On September 16, 1927, the Joint Committee of the two churches met and agreed upon the plan of union which is set forth in the

preceeding chapter, and also discussed in the chapter which follows. On September 28, 1927, the plan of union and the Articles of Consolidation were approved and adopted by duly called meetings of the Quarterly Conference and of the membership, and the requirements of the Law and the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church having been met, and the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees being duly authorized, executed the Articles of Consolidation on October 7, 1927. Messrs. I. Manning Parsons, M. F. McCormick, S. George Wolf, and William E. Thomsen, elected by Roland Park Church, and Walter B. Swindell, J. H. Barrett, William F. Roach and Albert C. Tolson elected by Grace Church, became the Trustees of the Consolidated body, known as "Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City". However, except as explained in the following Chapter, the two churches operated separately until January 1928. The last service at old Grace Church was held on January 1, 1928 to which the Roland Park congregation was invited. Thereafter all services were held at Roland Park. Both pastors were retained.

IV.

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church

The first Official Board meeting of "Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City" was held at the Roland Park Church on October 25, 1927. Dr. B. W. Meeks presided and Dr. Chesteen Smith offered the prayer. T. J. Watts was elected Secretary pro. tem. Dr. Meeks made a few explanatory remarks suggesting that at this time temporary officers and such temporary committees as might be necessary, should be elected to carry on the affairs of the consolidated church until the month of January, when consolidation was expected to be completed. The following statement was recorded:

"For the purpose of preserving a written record for the future of the reasons for the minutes of the following meeting, it was deemed wise to give a brief resume of the facts leading up to this first meeting of the Official Board of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City.

"For a period of over fifty years there has been at Lanvale Street and Carrollton Avenue, Baltimore, The Grace Methodist Church which had a fine record for its community, but due to changing conditions of its members moving to suburban sections and the invasion of negro population, the value of the service to the community, was rapidly declining.

"The Roland Park Methodist Episcopal Church with an enviable record of thirty-two years was the only Methodist Church in the Northern section of Baltimore serving the residential community of Roland Park and vicinity.

"It had therefore been suggested to the two bodies that a merger of the two congregations would lead to a very effective organization being formed for the serving of the Northern end of Baltimore.

"After due consideration by the Official Boards of the two bodies, a committee was appointed by the Official Board of each Church to confer with each other as to the possibilities of such a merger. After numerous meetings and discussions of plans, a definite plan was formulated for the consolidation of the two churches under the name of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City, the said

plans being submitted to the two congregations for their approval and action.

"In September 1927, these two congregations by formal action, fully ratified the plans of consolidation of the two churches effective January 1928 and these plans of consolidation called for an Official Board of the new organization consisting of four trustees and fourteen stewards from each congregation, the combined elected officials to serve as the Official Board of the new organization.

"These officials were duly elected by the proper bodies of each church and were in a position to organize themselves as a body for the promotion of plans that had been formulated under the Articles of Consolidation."

Those present were:

Dr. Chesteen Smith, W. H. Gorsuch, Albert Schauman, W. E. F. Taylor, J. H. Barrett, W. W. Dunbracco, J. W. Rice, C. A. Plumly, C. E. Mitten, W. R. McClayton, Frank Duncan, A. R. C. Smith, W. W. Moore, R. W. Watkins, Jr., William F. Roach, Dr. B. W. Meeks, W. B. Swindell, I. Manning Parsons, S. George Wolf, Wm. Edward Thomsen, Charles W. Woodward, Charles Morgan, J. A. Canoles, V. V. Klinefelter, Jr., H. B. McNeal, William L. Merriken, Roszel C. Thomsen, Wilbur N. VanSant, Joseph G. Valiant, Robert W. Maeser, A. C. Tolson, Arthur Booze, T. J. Watts, Roy E. Roberts and Robert B. Wagner.

A committee on nominations was named—W. H. Gorsuch, B. B. Webster, V. V. Klinefelter and Roszel C. Thomsen. The Joint Merger Committee—Dr. B. W. Meeks, I. Manning Parsons, S. George Wolf, William E. Thomsen, Dr. Chesteen Smith, W. B. Swindell, John H. Barrett and Albert C. Tolson were also named as the Building Committee.

Each church continued to operate until consolidation became effective in January 1928 to collect and pay their obligations and report to the Annual Conference until that time, when officers of the consolidated body assumed responsibility. New stationery was authorized. Attendance at the Adult Bible Class was stressed by Wm. R. McClayton. The Men's Club dinner was announced by the President, Roszel C. Thomsen.

The second Official Board meeting at Roland Park Church occurred on December 5, 1927. Dr. Chesteen Smith presided. The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by B. B. Webster, and the

nominated officers and committees were elected. Ushers and collectors were also elected. Expenses of moving, storing and rentals for the apartment of Dr. Smith were ordered paid. The Building Committee was authorized to purchase the Miller property at Roland and Elmhurst Avenues, 287½ by 190 feet, for $50,000. On December 1, 1927, *The Sun* reported the purchase of the new lot and the plans for the last service at the old Grace Church.

The first union worship service was held at the Church at Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road on January 8, 1928, at which Bishop William F. McDowell preached to a capacity congregation. A large choir under the direction of Edward Choate O'Dell furnished special music. At the evening service, Dr. Chesteen Smith preached to another large congregation. The bulletin of January 8, 1928 listed a fully staffed church organization. Greetings were read from the Bishops and former pastors. Cordial feelings of good fellowship abounded. By agreement, Dr. Meeks preached at the morning services and Dr. Smith in the evening. But a few weeks later, at the request of Bishop McDowell, Dr. Smith became pastor of North Avenue M. E. Church and later became a District Superintendent. Thomas W. Fluharty, a member for sixty years, passed away. Theodore R. McKeldin became a teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

On February 15, 1928, at duly called meetings of the Quarterly Conference and the membership, upon request of the Trustees, the sale of Carrollton Avenue and Lanvale Street property was authorized for $80,000 in cash, and title to purchaser's property on Orchard Street near Druid Hill Avenue, 53′8″ by 125′, subject to a Ground Rent of $80.50, and two lots 24′ by 61′ each fronting on Moore's Alley. Officers of the Trustees were authorized to execute the necessary papers, and deeds were executed on March 2, 1928.

John H. Barrett was elected delegate to the Lay Electoral Conference. The Sunday School enrollment was 422 with average attendance of 281. Appreciation of the work of Mrs. Harry Wilson, Mrs. Alma Tall, Mrs. Carrie Ing, Mrs. T. J. B. Watts, W. R. McClayton and W. N. VanSant was expressed.

The Trustees received a valuation of the Orchard Street property at $35,087.50 and authorized sale. Mrs. A. R. C. Smith became the Church Secretary. The Rev. P. C. Edwards was made Assistant Pastor. In November 1928, the publication—*The Parish Visitor* appeared. In January 1929, Mrs. Smith's resignation was accepted with regret. The Official Board requested that ministers who occupy

the pulpit wear academic gowns, and authorized the purchase of a supply of them.

In March 1928, protests made to the building of the new church at Roland and Elmhurst Aves. (Miller property) were denied by the Board of Zoning Appeals, but the church could not comply with the contract of sale until its right to build thereon was determined. When suit was brought by the seller, an answer of the church was filed, setting out its intention to comply as soon as assured of its right to build the church. It was ably represented by Messrs. Albert C. Tolson, B. B. Webster, and Roszel C. Thomsen. Later the issues were settled by agreement, the contract of sale was cancelled, and the purchase money repaid in June 1930. *The Sun* of March 21, 1928 gave a full account of the proceedings and also published an editorial "Point Well Taken" which supported the position of the church.

At the Baltimore Conference in April 1929, the Rev. P. C. Edwards was sent to University Heights Church in Washington, D. C. At this time additional help was secured to assist the pastor, and Mrs. Maud Mulliken was selected as Church Secretary, and Mrs. Beatrice Snedaker was employed as deaconess for parish work.

In May 1929, the Orchard Street property was sold to the John Mack Methodist Church for $30,000, $15,000 cash and the balance in a first five year mortgage with amortization but later, due to the depression, the contract had to be rewritten for a price of $15,000 with the $2,000 paid to be credited, and the balance to be paid in monthly installments of $83.33 with interest at 4%. This was ratified by Quarterly Conference and membership meetings. Upon the recommendation of the building committee, the Quarterly Conference authorized the purchase in December 1929, of the lot at the south east corner of Charles and Belvedere Avenues, being 320 feet on Charles Street, 336 feet on Belvedere Avenue and 275 feet on Croydon Road, or approximately 106,520 square feet or 2½ acres, for $50,000. Architects Frohman, Robb and Little of Boston, Mass. and Washington, D. C. and W. W. Emmart of Baltimore were employed and proceeded to prepare plans for an elaborate Gothic edifice. Purchase of the lot was consummated on May 17, 1930.

Fred C. Reynolds, 1930-1941

Dr. B. W. Meeks having concluded a very successful pastorate, was succeeded in June 1930 by Rev. Dr. Fred C. Reynolds, who came from Wesley Church, Washington, D. C. Both Dr. and Mrs.

Reynolds were well regarded from the beginning. She had long been interested in Missionary Activities. A sign was ordered for the new lot. A brochure was prepared for a beautiful $500,000 Gothic building. Revised plans were discussed and approved. The new lot at Charles and Belvedere was consecrated by Bishop McDowell and Dr. Harry W. Burgan, District Superintendent, on the afternoon of October 26, 1930. *The Sun* of October 25, 1930 foretold the event with a complete program, and a picture of the architect's drawing of the new edifice.

Wilbur N. VanSant, Superintendent of the Sunday School, reported it having 400 scholars, and 50 officers and teachers. He recommended employment of a Director of Religious Education. Miss Snedaker's resignation as deaconess was accepted with regret. The Lenten program was featured. Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Wright was employed to do pastoral work. A Wednesday evening Bible Class was started, and also Sunday evening joint services with Roland Park Presbyterian Church.

The Standard Oil Company made an offer for the property of Roland Avenue M. E. Church, Roland Avenue and 40th Street, subject to securing a permit for a filling station there, which was accepted by their Quarterly Conference subject to membership approval—and began negotiations for the purchase of Grace Church property at Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road. The application for permit was vigorously protested and all negotiations failed.

Mr. Frohman, architect, submitted an estimate of cost of the new edifice based on the Gothic plans as follows:

Church—437,000 cu. ft.	$315,000
Chapel—32,000 cu. ft.	19,200
Tower—120,000 cu. ft.	107,000
Fellowship Hall—260,000 cu. ft.	143,000
Sunday School—268,000 cu. ft.	134,000
Cloisters—12,800 cu. ft.	7,700
Parsonage	45,000
	$770,900

On October 5, 1931, a resolution was passed that the request for bids previously considered be rescinded, and no further consideration be given to building in the light of the existing depression. The Annual outing of the Men's Club was held at Dr. Gorsuch's farm near Timonium. Dr. Watson retired and placed relationship with the

Quarterly Conference at Grace Church. Dr. Reynolds reported all organizations functioning satisfactorily. Dr. Loren M. Edwards, former pastor, en route to the General Conference in Atlantic City, preached at Grace Church. Mr. Wilbur C. VanSant, one of the founding fathers and first Sunday School Superintendent of Roland Park Church, passed away in January 1934. Bishop Edwin H. Hughes was assigned to the Washington area and became the resident bishop. "Rethinking Missions" was studied by the Missionary Group. Dr. Lichliter, former pastor, came to give a series of lectures at Johns Hopkins University and attended the Men's Club dinner, at which Judge Robert F. Stanton presided.

In September 1934, Grace Church participated in the plans which were laid for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of American Methodism in Baltimore at the Christmas Conference in 1784. October 14, 1934, Bishop Hughes preached at Grace Church and consecrated the improvements. In December 1934, the White Gift service was inaugurated.

J. Harry Grace was elected delegate to the Lay Electoral Conference. In October 1935, there was an assembly at Johns Hopkins University field to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the First Printed Bible by Miles Coverdale. January 1936 marked the visit to Baltimore of the great Japanese saint, T. Kagawa.

Bishop William F. McDowell passed away in April 1936. The *Washington Star* concludes—"He belongs to the Nation and its Capitol forever". The "Upper Room" for private devotions was introduced and recommended for daily use. Judge Robert F. Stanton was elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Conference. Miss Grace Demetriades was employed as assistant to the Pastor for work among young people including the Junior Church. The Gipsy Smith meetings at the Fifth Regiment Armory were widely attended. January 16, 1938, Mrs. Marie Bauernschmidt addressed the Men's Club under the leadership of Edward A. McGinity, President, and C. Emory Mitten, Treasurer. In May 1938, the two hundredth anniversary of John Wesley's heart warming experience was observed. In March 1939, a Lenten preaching mission was held with Roland Park Presbyterian, Wilson Memorial, Guilford Community, and Grace Church, the preacher being Dr. Peter Marshall, of Washington.

The uniting Conference of the three branches of Methodists was held at Kansas City, Mo. in May 1939, which organized "The

Methodist Church". Dr. Reynolds attended the conference as a delegate. At the service at Grace Church on May 21, 1939, the Hymns, Invocation, Collect, Responsive Reading and New Testament Lesson were taken from the Order of Closing Service called the "Declaration of Union" at Kansas City.

At the General Conference in 1940, the Ladies' Aid and Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were consolidated into the "Woman's Society for Christian Service", and became effective everywhere. It became known as W. S. C. S. On February 4, 1940, the contract of sale of the Orchard Street property for $15,000 was ratified by a membership meeting. A 1940 Edition of the Church Directory was put on sale. The resignation of Miss Grace Demetriades was accepted with regret. Bishop Adna Leonard was assigned to the Washington area at that time. In September 1940, Dr. Reynolds was granted a furlough for the mobilization period for Chaplaincy services. Mrs. Grace Hooper McNeal became Director of Religious Education. A National Christian Mission at Fifth Regiment Armory with Dr. E. Stanley Jones, Muriel Lester of London, Dr. Oscar F. Blackwelder, and Bishop Arthur Moore and others, focused attention.

JOSEPH M. M. GRAY, 1940-1941

Dr. Joseph M. M. Gray of American University was appointed pastor of Grace Church until the convening of the Central Pennsylvania Conference in April 1941. The Rev. R. W. H. Weech was selected for the pastoral work and served until the meeting of the Baltimore Conference on June 4, 1941. Among the visiting preachers in the interim were: Dr. James S. Montgomery, U. S. House of Representatives Chaplain, Dr. Roy L. Smith, The Rev. John Rustin, Dr. Fred Holloway, Dr. W. A. Keese, and Bishop Edwin H. Hughes. Senator Millard Tydings addressed the Men's Club. The word "Episcopal" was deleted from the bulletins. The Rev. Thomas S. Long retired and joined Grace Quarterly Conference. There was another preaching mission of the four churches with Dr. Peter Marshall conducting during the Lenten period. Dr. Reynolds left for the Chaplaincy work in March 1941. The budget adopted in June 1941 was $15,477 for Current Expenses and $6,479 for Benevolences —a total of $21,956. Dr. R. W. H. Weech, who had won the gratitude of the congregation, retired.

WILLIAM A. KEESE, 1941-

The Baltimore Conference, in June 1941, appointed as pastor, Dr. William A. Keese, who came from the Metropolitan Church, Washington, D. C. A reception was given Dr. and Mrs. Keese. Some modern improvements were added to the parsonage, and the building painted. Mrs. Grace Hooper McNeal resigned and appreciation was expressed for her services. Wilson Memorial having withdrawn, Union Lenten Services with the three churches with Dr. Peter Marshall again preaching, were held in 1942. Messrs. Roy E. Roberts and W. Guy Delahay decorated the Church for Easter.

About fifty sons and daughters were now in Military service. Permission was granted the Red Cross to use the Church as a housing and feeding center with the Ladies' group cooperating. An amplifying system was donated by Roy E. Roberts. "Grace Notes" were sent to the membership as a gift of a member. On March 29, 1942, Palm Sunday, a blizzard struck the City and blanketed it with twenty inches of snow—33 attended the service at Grace Church. In October 1942, the exterior of the Church was painted, decorations and a new carpet furnished at a cost of $3,500. The 11 p. m. service on Christmas Eve was inaugurated.

The fifteenth anniversary of the merger with Roland Park was celebrated in January 1943. Dr. Chesteen Smith preached—Greetings were read from Dr. Meeks and Dr. Reynolds. Dr. Reynolds now became Lt. Col. Reynolds, Post Chaplain at Ft. George G. Meade. The church sustained a loss when Robert B. Wagner, Sunday School Superintendent, died in October 1943. Joseph M. C. Carter made a gift of $2,500 and also a plaque to honor those in military service of World War II. Lieut. Charles Bowman, Lieut. Robert H. Clayton and Lieut. Milton E. Ricketts had paid the Supreme Sacrifice. In May 1944, a settlement of the Orchard Street contract was made by acceptance of $6,000 cash and a note of $2,000 at 4%. Joint Thanksgiving Service at Grace Church was held with the Roland Park and Second Presbyterian Churches, and Dr. Paul C. Warren preached. Bishop Hughes returned to the area after the demise of Bishop Leonard.

On February 13, 1944, the Official Board accepted a program to raise $50,000 each year for three years, to start a building fund for the new church on the lot at Charles and Belvedere on which taxes and maintenance charges had been paid for many years, construction

having been deferred during the depression. The "Crusade for Christ" program was adopted and an allotment of $8,775 was accepted and $10,242 was paid. A Methodist Preachers meeting was held at Grace Church on March 20th, when Dr. Lowell S. Ensor preached. Dr. E. Pearce Hayes came on June 4th. In October 1944, Harry R. Scott, Jr. became Sunday School Superintendent. On April 4, 1945, subscriptions to the Building Fund amounted to $42,826. In June 1945, Report to the Baltimore Conference, Bishop Flint presiding, showed active members 892, inactive 337, Sunday School 226, Current Expenses $10,745. The Pastor wrote letters of appreciation and encouragement to men in military service. In September 1945, the Building Fund now amounted to $91,000 including bonds. In November 1945, Bishop Flint was assigned to Washington area, and the Rev. J. Milton Rogers was made District Superintendent. $25,176 was pledged to the Building Fund during the second year. In January 1946, Foster Fanseen showed movies of the surrender of Germany and the fall of Japan at the Men's Club meeting. The church had increased its membership to 1229.

By a letter of May 13, 1946, the pastor and a committee of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church extended to North Baltimore Methodist Church, formerly North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church, an invitation to consolidate, and suggested a committee be appointed for discussion. Dr. W. A. Keese, W. N. VanSant, C. Emory Mitten, Roszel C. Thomsen, W. H. Long, W. Lloyd Fisher, Mrs. Hester C. Wagner and W. R. McClayton represented Grace Church and W. C. Scott, Donald M. Munroe, S. Vannort Chapman, James W. Stevens, George H. Ohm, James H. Jones and George W. Dexter represented North Baltimore Church, on the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee of the two churches met promptly and agreed upon a plan of Union, as follows:

"The joint Committees of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City and North Baltimore Methodist Church, having met and carefully considered the questions involved in the proposed consolidation of the two churches, hereby submit to their respective Quarterly Conferences the following recommendations:

"1. That the 'Grace Methodist Episcopal Church of Baltimore City' and the 'North Baltimore Methodist Church' consolidate in accordance with the Articles of Consolidation attached hereto, and create a new organization to be known as 'Grace North Baltimore Methodist Church'.

"2. That the Quarterly Conference of Grace Church shall designate six trustees of the consolidated church; the Quarterly Conference of North Baltimore church shall designate three trustees of the consolidated church.

"3. That the Quarterly Conference of each of the present churches shall designate such members of their present respective Boards of Trustees and Boards of Stewards as they may determine, should serve on the Board of Stewards of the consolidated church.

"4. That the new organization shall proceed with the erection of a new church edifice on the site owned by Grace Church, at Charles Street and Belvedere Avenue. It is understood that when the new church is built, or at such a time as the consolidated church may deem desirable, the question of the name of the church will be considered anew.

"5. That the selection of the superintendent and the organization of the Sunday School of the consolidated church be referred to Dr. Keese and the present Sunday School Superintendents of the two churches.

"6. That the organization and the selection of the officers of the various women's societies of the consolidated church be referred to Dr. Keese and the presidents of the various women's societies of the two churches.

"7. (a) That on as early a date as possible, after the completion of a legal merger, the two congregations unite for worship in the Grace Church building.

"(b) That the new Official Board shall be in full control of all matters pertaining to the development of the program of the consolidated church.

"(c) That the present Official Boards shall be in full control of the affairs of the two local congregations until the final merging of the two congregations into one congregation.

"8. That after the adoption of these recommendations by the respective Quarterly Conferences of the two churches, meetings of the respective congregations be called to act upon the proposed Articles of Consolidation."

The Plan of Union and the Articles of Consolidation were approved and adopted by the Quarterly Conference on May 23rd and by a duly called membership meeting on June 5, 1946. All requirements of the Law and the Discipline of The Methodist Church

having been complied with, Mr. I. Manning Parsons, President, and William H. Long, Secretary, of the Board of Trustees of Grace Church and W. C. Scott, President, and R. B. Dexter, Secretary, of the Board of Trustees of North Baltimore Church, executed the Articles of Consolidation on June 6, 1946. J. Harry Grace, William H. Long, Wm. R. McClayton, L. M. Ricketts, C. Emory Mitten and Roy E. Roberts of Grace Church and W. C. Scott, Donald M. Munroe and George W. Dexter of North Baltimore Church, were named Trustees of the Consolidated body, which became "Grace North Baltimore Methodist Church". Messrs. I. Manning Parsons, W. Guy Delahay and T. N. Bartlett were elected Stewards. Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely, Pastor of North Baltimore Church, upon invitation transferred to the Quarterly Conference of Grace North Baltimore Church. Dr. J. Milton Rogers preached at the last service at Grace Church. Dr. W. A. Keese preached at the last service held at the North Baltimore Church. A gracious welcome awaited the newcomers.

V.

North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church

At the Maryland Annual Conference in April 1891, the Church Extension Society reported that a new church in North Baltimore was urgent. In fact, services had already been held at Lanvale Hall, 151 W. Lanvale Street. Application was made to the Conference in April 1892 for a minister, but no supply was available at that time.

JOHN M. GILL, 1893-1896

In April 1893, the Rev. John M. Gill was appointed by the Conference to become the first pastor of North Baltimore Mission. North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church was organized at a meeting at Lanvale Hall on October 28, 1893 with the following Charter members: Ella Bruff, Luther J. Cox, Maria L. Cox, J. E. A. Cunningham, Isabella Cunningham, J. K. B. Emory, S. Amanda Emory, Robert J. Gill, Emma C. Gill, William J. Hooper, Clarence Hunter, Marion E. Kenly, Philip E. Kent, Ella Stevens Reese, Lillian Stevens Staley, and Mollie Wilmer. The lot on Mt. Royal Avenue near North Avenue was selected by the Church Extension Society at Dr. Gill's suggestion. On June 25, 1894, the Society took a 99-year lease on the lot subject to a ground rent of $432.

The first Quarterly Conference was held in May 1894, at which Dr. Gill presided, and ten were present. The neighborhood had been canvassed. At a meeting at Lanvale Hall on November 4, 1894, the new congregation elected a Board of Trustees and authorized its Incorporation on November 6, 1894, under the Laws of Maryland, in the name of "The Trustees of North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church of Baltimore City". The Trustees elected were: J. K. B. Emory, Luther J. Cox, William T. Tomlinson, John B. Thomas, Philip E. Kent, William H. Jones, G. Milton Linthicum, Joel C. Dumbracco, and John M. Gill. Five Stewards were also elected.

This section of the City at the Mt. Royal Avenue approach to Druid Hill Park was growing rapidly. Construction of a church was deemed imperative and plans for the same, drawn by J. H. Hopkins, Architect, were approved. The Church Extension Society on November 22, 1894 entered into a contract with Clinton Smith,

builder, at a cost of $7,495 for the construction of the Building. On December 2, 1894, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies. Dr. J. T. Murray presided and addresses were made by Dr. F. T. Little, Dr. F. T. Tagg, Dr. J. S. Bowers and the Rev. J. M. Yingling. Subscriptions at the time amounted to $4,521.04. The construction advanced rapidly and the building was completed and occupied in May 1895. The stone building was attractive and adorned by beautiful memorial windows. An organ was purchased at this time. The Sunday School thrived with J. E. A. Cunningham as Superintendent. An Emory Aid Society and a Christian Endeavor Society were both active. Indeed at the Maryland Annual Conference in April 1894, President J. D. Kinzer said of North Baltimore Church—"Its foundation has been wisely laid, in self sacrificing work and its leadership in pulpit and pew commands respect and inspires confidence". Dr. Gill was known as an eloquent preacher, a good administrator and a beloved pastor, and after a notable pastorate of three years, was succeeded by the Rev. Albert Norman Ward in April 1896.

ALBERT N. WARD, 1896-1899

The new pastor was quite a young man, but a good preacher and faithful pastor under whose guidance the church and its various organizations continued to grow. Dr. E. J. Drinkhouse attended the Quarterly Conferences. The Rev. Charlton Strayer was licensed to preach, and later went to a Western Conference. An assessment was accepted for Westminster Theological Seminary. These lean years had been followed by the Spanish American War years. Dr. Ward served the congregation quite acceptably for three years. Subsequently he served Western Maryland College as President for fifteen years, and while there became a National Leader among the Liberal Arts and Church Related Colleges. He was succeeded at North Baltimore Church in April 1899, by the Rev. Frank H. Lewis.

FRANK H. LEWIS, 1899-1905

The Church Extension Society on May 5, 1899, placed a $1,900 5% mortgage on the property and the proceeds plus a collection of $582.85 were used to pay off the existing mortgage held by the builder. The Quarterly Conference assumed payment of the ground rent on the lot and the Extension Society thus relieved, transferred title to the Trustees. The Rev. William M. Poisal became a member

of the Quarterly Conference. On March 23, 1903, the Quarterly Conference recorded a resolution of appreciation to Messrs. Daniel Baker and William G. Baker, Jr. for their gift to the Church, of the property at 1503 Mt. Royal Avenue for a Parsonage. In September 1904, a committee of which T. W. Donoho was Chairman redecorated and recarpeted the Church, and added an iron gate to the north entrance to the Sunday School Room. In April 1905, in reviewing this pastorate, President A. D. Melvin of the Maryland Annual Conference, described it as "splendid, with assurances of numerical and financial strength."

FRED C. KLEIN, 1905-1908

At this time, Dr. Lewis left to go to First Church, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Dr. Fred C. Klein was assigned as the next pastor. Dr. Klein had had a notable record as a missionary and teacher in Japan, and had returned for health reasons.

After membership approval, the Trustees on June 8, 1905 executed a 4½% mortgage of $6,800 to the Central Savings Bank on the Church and parsonage properties, the proceeds of which were used to redeem the ground rent of $432 (Value $7,200) thus reducing the interest by 1½%.

A Trust Fund for the benefit of the Church was created by the will of Mrs. Isabella E. Cunningham, a charter member, which became payable after a life estate, and the proceeds were used to pay off the mortgage which was released on January 31, 1941.

At a cost of $6,000 Sunday School rooms in the rear of the Church were added in the fall of 1905. A loan was secured, which was discharged later, and the note was burned by Joseph D. Baker, Jr. and James W. Stevens, Jr. at a special service on March 22, 1908. The Rev. R. S. Rowe became a member of the Quarterly Conference.

On December 18, 1907, a duly appointed committee from St. John's Independent Church, also known as Clark Memorial Church, came with their pastor, Dr. John S. Bowers, to the Quarterly Conference of North Baltimore M. P. Church, stating that their charter had been revised to conform to the Constitution and Discipline of the Methodist Protestant Church and requested that their Church be recognized as a Methodist Protestant Church and under the authority of the Maryland Annual Conference. Their request was gladly granted, and Dr. J. M. Sheridan, President of the Maryland Conference who was also present, acceded to the request, and made official

recognition under the Church laws, and it became St. John's M. P. Church. Speeches of welcome were made by Daniel Baker and Dr. J. M. H. Rowland and was acknowledged by Dr. Bowers on behalf of St. John's.

At the session of the General Conference of the M. P. Church in May 1908, Dr. Klein was selected as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions. He tendered his resignation on June 1, 1908, which was accepted, and appreciation was expressed for his faithful and effective pastorate.

THOMAS O. CROUSE, 1908-1915

A committee composed of Dr. J. M. H. Rowland, Thomas A. Myers and C. H. Slater, was selected to confer with the Maryland Conference President for a successor. Rev. Dr. Thomas O. Crouse was appointed in August 1908. Dr. Klein was invited to continue a member of the Quarterly Conference. In October 1910, Church bulletins came into use. The use of individual Communion cups was introduced in July 1911. Special evangelistic services were held in October 1914. Dr. Crouse was an eloquent preacher and faithful pastor and enjoyed a successful pastorate for seven years.

WILLIAM H. LITSINGER, 1915-1929

In April 1915, the Rev. William H. Litsinger came to North Baltimore. Church repairs were made, and new electric light fixtures were installed. The first North Baltimore "Year Book" recording its activities and listing the membership and officers, was published. This was continued for many years. Daniel Baker of North Baltimore M. P. Church was Chairman of the Billy Sunday Campaign which came to Baltimore in 1916. The importance of recruiting converts had special attention. Many renewed their vows and 49 new members were added to the roll. The spiritual tone of the community was elevated. The White Gift service was inaugurated in 1916. The Maryland General Hospital put on a campaign for $150,000 and North Baltimore subscribed $5,000 and paid $5,600.

Then came World War I. Nineteen went into the service from the Church. A committee wrote regularly to the men in the service. The flu epidemic was raging, and the Sunday School was closed for a short time. The pastor, given a leave of absence as a Y. M. C. A. secretary, served first at Camp Holabird, and later as Religious Work Director at Camp Meade, where four hundred conversions

were reported. The Church had an active Red Cross Circle and participated in Liberty Loan and Welfare Drives. The pulpit was filled by visiting preachers during the pastor's absence. The Christian Endeavor Society of North Baltimore undertook the support of a native Japanese pastor. Daniel Baker gave up the Superintendency of the Sunday School to do work among the soldiers. James W. Chapman, Jr. succeeded him. The Rev. Paul F. Warner was licensed to preach in September 1919 and was sponsored for admission to the Maryland Conference in 1921. In October 1918, the 25th anniversary was celebrated. Dr. Gill returned to preach, and a number of addresses were made at the Sunday School session.

The General Conference in 1919, put on the "Forward Movement" campaign for a million dollars, and North Baltimore subscribed $10,490. In January 1920, Deaconess Lillian De Moss canvassed the neighborhood for new members. Cottage Prayer Meetings were held, and $3,300 was subscribed to the "Inter-Church World" movement. The congregation sustained a loss when Mrs. W. H. Litsinger, the beloved wife of the pastor, passed away in March 1920.

Daniel Baker, W. C. Scott, H. C. Staley and the pastor attended as delegates, the General Conference of the M. P. Church at Greensboro, N. C. in May 1920. Mr. Staley was elected Treasurer of the General Conference, and Mr. Scott, to the Executive Committee. In May 1921, the Church suffered further loss in the death of Mrs. Daniel Baker, and of Mr. Daniel Baker, one of the leading laymen of the denomination, in August 1921.

Eight hundred dollars was donated to the Church Extension Society for a new church in Wilmington, Del. $5,576 was subscribed to the Superannuated Fund. Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Donoho of North Baltimore Church attended the Ecumenical Conference in London in the fall of 1921. In May 1922, the Church was rededicated after extensive improvements at a cost of $5,300 covered by subscriptions. The Rev. W. D. Litsinger, father of the pastor, and Dr. F. T. Tagg, Editor of the *Methodist Protestant*, became members of the North Baltimore Quarterly Conference.

There was a meeting at North Baltimore of M. P. Conference Presidents in July 1923. An offering was taken for Japanese earthquake sufferers in 1923, and $1,249.25 was raised.

October 28, 1923, marked the 30th anniversary. Rev. G. I. Humphreys, President of the Maryland Annual Conference, preached

at the morning service, and Dr. A. N. Ward, former pastor, in the evening. Services were held several evenings during the following week, the preachers being Dr. Harris E. Kirk, Dr. Thomas O. Crouse, Dr. James H. Straughn and Dr. Don S. Colt.

On November 11, 1924, a farewell meeting was held at North Baltimore Church under denominational auspices for the Rev. Paul F. Warner, who went to Japan, and the Rev. and Mrs. Paul M. Cassen who went to India, as missionaries.

Improvements by the addition of a narthex of quartered oak, new stone steps and rebuilt vestibule floors were accepted with expressions of gratitude to the anonymous donors. Also some improvements were made to the organ. Rev. Dr. F. T. Little transferred to the North Baltimore Quarterly Conference. On May 14, 1926, there was a reception to twenty-seven new members. Sound proof doors and movable screens were added to the Sunday School. The Church joined the Baltimore Federation of Churches. The membership numbered 245. The budget rose to $8,000 and the Sunday School advanced under the leadership of James W. Chapman, Jr., Superintendent and H. C. Staley, Assistant Superintendent. With the approach of its Centennial, a Gratitude Gift for the work of the General Church was proposed, and North Baltimore in 1927, subscribed $4,234.25 for that purpose. More emphasis was laid on the Lenten period and Easter with each year.

The General Conference of the M. P. Church met at St. John's M. P. Church in Baltimore in May 1928, to celebrate its 100th anniversary there, where the Methodist Protestant Church had been founded. The North Baltimore Church was used to rehearse the large chorus for the celebration, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. E. D. Stone.

In 1928, the Church joined with other Protestant denominations in the Loyalty Crusade, which increased interest in the regular services, Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Society. The Quarterly Conference in October 1928 expressed appreciation to anonymous donors for elaborate improvements to the organ loft area to conform to the narthex, adornment of the choir recess, and beautiful lantern type fixtures, to harmonize with the interior.

On October 28, 1928, the 35th anniversary was observed and Dr. Thomas Hamilton Lewis, President of the General Conference of the M. P. Church, was the guest preacher.

At the invitation of Dr. J. M. H. Rowland, prominent speakers came to address the Men's Club at its Friday evening meetings to the delight of the membership. Among them were: Dr. Arthur Shipley, Dr. John R. Oliver, author of "Fear" and "Victor and Vanquished" and Dr. Harry Friedenwald, whose rare and valuable Old Testament Manuscripts were displayed for the inspection of the membership. Dr. John C. Broomfield, of Fairmont, West Virginia and Dr. W. J. Thompson of Drew Theological Seminary came to preach during the Lenten season of 1929.

After a very successful pastorate of 14½ years, Dr. Litsinger left in September 1929, to become Secretary of the Church Extension Society of the Maryland Annual Conference.

WINFRED P. ROBERTS, 1929-1932

The Rev. Winfred P. Roberts came from First Church, Seattle, Washington, to be its pastor on October 1, 1929. Dr. H. L. Elderdice, President, began the Westminster Theological Seminary Endowment Fund Campaign in 1929 and North Baltimore subscribed $9,273. Dr. Litsinger remained a member of the Quarterly Conference. The church activities continued during the depression which harrassed the country at that time. Dr. Roberts was a capable preacher and faithful pastor for three years, after which he was sent by the Conference to Peninsula Church, Wilmington, Delaware.

JAMES H. STRAUGHN, 1932-1936

Dr. James H. Straughn became the next pastor in June 1932. Dr. Straughn had been President of the Maryland Annual Conference, Assistant to the President of the General Conference, and Secretary-Treasurer of the General Conference of the M. P. Church. He was already well and favorably known to many of the congregation. His program was adopted and the work went forward. The Sesqui-Centennial of American Methodism, the Christmas Conference (1784) was observed in December 1934. The Pre-Easter program was emphasized and Dr. Harlan L. Feeman of Adrian, Mich., came to participate. In May 1935, Dr. Straughn became Chairman of the Headquarters Refunding Campaign which refinanced the denominational headquarters at 516 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, to prevent foreclosure of the mortgages which totalled $157,000. The project succeeded; and this building with its Publishing House and Book Store, in March 1941, became the headquarters of "The Methodist Church" in this area.

At the meeting of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1936, Dr. Straughn was elected President, and he left to bring the various Annual Conferences into line for Church Union, and to his everlasting credit, he succeeded in doing so.

WILLIAM H. LITSINGER, 1936-1942

At the Maryland Annual Conference in June 1936, Dr. W. H. Litsinger, who had served appointments at Salisbury and Chestertown in the interim, was welcomed back to North Baltimore as its pastor. Monthly meetings of the Official Board were begun in October 1936. Improvements and redecorations to the extent of $1,799 were made. The Church participated in the "Fellowship Crusade" anticipating Church Union and $1,568 was raised. Use of the "Upper Room" for private daily devotions was encouraged. The membership attended the Lyric meeting on May 22, 1938, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion. For nine weeks prior thereto, laymen had addressed the Wednesday evening service on some phase of the history of Methodism. A special Wesley Commemorative meeting was held at the Church on May 24, 1938.

Harry C. Staley was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School in May 1939. Miss Ruth Staley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Staley, who had grown up in the North Baltimore Church and Sunday School, went in 1939, as a missionary to the Belgian Congo under the auspices of the Africa Inland Mission of the Interdenominational Board of Brooklyn, N. Y.

In May 1939, the Uniting Conference met at Kansas City, Mo. and consummated the union of the three branches of Methodism known as "The Methodist Church". Dr. James H. Straughn, the former pastor, and Chairman of the M. P. Committee on Union, was elected a Bishop, and later was assigned to the Pittsburgh area. The Bishop and his family were tendered a reception by the membership at North Baltimore Church on June 13,1939. W. C. Scott and H. C. Staley of North Baltimore Church had attended as Lay Delegates to the Uniting Conference, as had also, William C. Perkins, who afterward came to membership at North Baltimore.

The membership voiced appreciation of the music of Robert Ballard, and the attractive flowers of Mrs. W. C. Scott, which added to the worship services. The loyalty of James W. Chapman as Sunday School Superintendent as well as Donald M. Munroe as Church Treasurer, was not overlooked.

On February 12, 1941 the Official Board expressed appreciation for receipt of the Isabella Cunningham legacy of $6,466.65 with which the Central Savings Bank mortgage was paid and released. Appreciation of James W. Chapman was also expressed for his handling of the legal requirements of the transaction.

World War II was now on. The Christian Flag and Our National Colors were anonymously donated and displayed in February 1942. An appropriate military Service Honor Roll containing 21 names of the membership was presented and accepted with appreciation and fittingly displayed.

Dr. Litsinger reached the required age and retired from the active ministry in June 1942. He had received 307 members during his ministry there and had won the regard and affection of the membership and the denomination. He had exampled what he had preached. In October of the following year, he became "Minister of the Parish" at Mt. Vernon Place Church.

VERNON N. RIDGELY, 1942-1946

The tenth and last pastor was Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely. He had been a member of the Baltimore Conference since he entered the ministry. He had been Superintendent of the Baltimore West District, and a member of the General Conference of the M. E. Church in 1932. Dr. and Mrs. Ridgely won the affection of the congregation at once. Joseph D. Baker, Jr. excelled as Lay Leader. Daniel Baker, Jr. was chairman of the Membership Committee. He began in May 1943, the publication of the "News Letter" which went to the membership including those in Military Service. It was continued until April 1946. This paper contained full accounts of Church services, pictures and letters of those in the service when available, and followed them during the war period. A committee also wrote to those in the service. The Ladies' organizations, under the leadership of Mrs. W. C. Scott, Mrs. H. C. Wells and Mrs. T. W. Donoho, were active. Boxes were sent to those in the service at Christmas. The Sunday School pressed forward under the direction of H. C. Staley, Superintendent, with the assistance of Mrs. Staley, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones, Miss Mary Rowland, Miss Mary Wheeler and others. The "Year Books" appeared again in 1942 and 1943. Deaconess Eva Ray canvassed the neighborhood, and thirty-four new members were added. The Official Board sent condolences upon the tragic death of Bishop Leonard. A set of beautiful collection plates was donated.

In June 1943, the Official Board authorized the appointment of a committee for the North Baltimore Semi-Centennial, which was fittingly observed on October 28, 1943 and the following Sunday, October 31st. An attractive booklet with a history of the Church by James W. Chapman, Daniel Baker, Jr. and Mrs. H. C. Staley, including a list of the Charter members, of its ministers, church officers and some statistics, and including a program for the services, had been prepared. Greetings were sent by Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, District Superintendent R. L. Wood, and former ministers—Dr. F. H. Lewis, Dr. W. H. Litsinger, and Dr. W. P. Roberts. Money gifts to the church were made by Mrs. Henry C. Treide and Mrs. Gilbert J. Morgan. A new Bible was presented by Mrs. H. C. Staley. Mrs. Anna Ridgely gave an organ recital. The Pastor outlined the purpose of the celebration, and the author of this history attempted to express it in verse:

North Baltimore (1893-1943)

After fifty years we meet, to honor those who worshipped here,
And the memory of those founders, we cease not to revere;
It is a heritage we treasure, the foundation laid was strong,
They fought valiantly for the right, they battled with the wrong.
Would that those we've loved and lost, their message could convey.
It would be an inspiration and would they not say—
"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard" the glory not yet expressed!
The World at its worst, needs the Church at its best!

New Occasions teach new duties, new models must be cast,
For the Present and the Future follow close upon the Past.
To serve our day, will challenge a loyalty without measure,
Each bringing of his talents, not unmindful of his treasure,
Sensing the need, renewing vows, that each the task may share,
Carrying on with vigor through faith and love and prayer.
By His grace may we be guided, and all our efforts blessed!
The world at its worst, needs the Church at its best!

G. W. D.

Bishop Straughn came to preach on Sunday, October 31st, 1943, and in his greeting commented in part: "And seeking to appraise the high character of this church and knowing its history as I do through the years, without in any sense minimizing the fine service other pastors have given, first in recognition must come the long and remarkable pastorate of Dr. Litsinger. Should one ask for a

major explanation of North Baltimore, the answer must be found in this devoted man."

In January, 1944, the church sustained the loss of James W. Chapman, Jr., Lawyer, layman and Sunday School Superintendent. In March, a service was held to honor the 24 members in Military Service. In June 1944, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Scott attended the Jurisdictional Conference at Atlantic City, to which he was a Lay Delegate. Bishop Flint was assigned to the Washington area.

The *Christian Advocate* of July 3, 1944 quoted a Chaplain who said—"Men around the world should know that church fires still burn, — a few weeks ago a soldier from North Baltimore (Md.) Church proudly exhibited a copy of the weekly bulletin saying they had followed him each week during his career in the Army." In November 1944, the "Crusade for Christ" was approved, its quota of $2,722 was accepted and $3,499 was subscribed and paid. The Woman's Society of Christian Service carried on. The *Evening Sun* of January 11, 1945, carried an article commending General Robert J. Gill, son of the first pastor, and a charter member of North Baltimore Church, for his organization and handling of 750,000 German War prisoners in France.

The congregation was saddened by the demise of Mrs. Anna Ridgely, beloved wife of the pastor, in April 1945. Sundays—May 13, 1945 and August 19, 1945, appointed by President Truman as days of Prayer and Thanksgiving for victory over Germany and Japan and for grateful memory of those who sacrificed their lives, were observed by North Baltimore Church. Daniel Baker, Jr. suggested the basement be remodelled to make a Youth Fellowship Centre which was completed at a cost of $3,300. Dr. J. T. Spicknall, District Superintendent, described the work of the membership committee headed by Daniel Baker, Jr. as the most active in the District.

The pastor had a protracted illness during the winter and spring of 1945-1946, necessitating some additional work for the Lay Leader and Pastoral Relations Committee, who had fine cooperation from District Superintendent J. T. Spicknall, Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, the Baltimore Conference, and the Westminster Theological Seminary. Dr. Ridgely was at the Maryland General Hospital several months. At the Official Board meeting in March, the Lay Leader announced that under Church law, Dr. Ridgely would be compelled to retire at the Baltimore Conference in June 1946.

Attention had been called to the desirability of amending the charter to conform to the Discipline of "The Methodist Church". The Trustees and Quarterly Conference proposed and approved the amended charter and called a membership meeting on April 10, 1946, which adopted the amendment. The amended charter was executed on April 11, 1946 by W. C. Scott, President and Daniel Baker, Jr., Secretary of the Board of Trustees, which changed the corporate name to "North Baltimore Methodist Church."

The end of the Church year was approaching with no available pastor. The neighborhood was fast becoming transient. The church was not holding its young people, and it felt reasonably certain that some of its influential members would go elsewhere. There was a probability that the church would not be able to continue to work as effectively as formerly. At this time a letter was received from Grace Methodist Episcopal Church inviting a merger and suggesting negotiations to that end. At an Official Board meeting on May 14, the letter was read, the proposition was approved, and a committee was appointed to carry on negotiations. The Joint Committee met and agreed upon the plan of union set out in the preceding chapter. On May 22nd the Quarterly Conference recommended the merger, approved the plan of union and the Articles of Consolidation, and authorized execution by the Board of Trustees when the requirements of the Law and the Discipline of The Methodist Church had been complied with.

At the duly called membership meeting on June 5, 1946, the plan of union and the Consolidated Charter were approved and adopted. On June 6, 1946, the Articles of Consolidation were executed by I. Manning Parsons, President, and W. H. Long, Secretary, on behalf of Grace Church and by W. C. Scott, President, and Robert B. Dexter, Secretary, on behalf of North Baltimore Church, and the new corporation became "Grace North Baltimore Methodist Church".

The Trustees named in the Consolidated Charter were: J. Harry Grace, W. H. Long, C. Emory Mitten, W. R. McClayton, L. M. Ricketts, Roy E. Roberts, elected by Grace Church and Donald M. Munroe, William C. Scott, and George W. Dexter, elected by North Baltimore Church.

The North Baltimore Trustees then met and concluded the business details of the old corporation. The membership of 285 were invited to the last service at North Baltimore on June 9th at which

Dr. William A. Keese preached. Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely was invited to become Associate Pastor. Dr. Keese was well received and the union was under way. The congregation with the exception of a few families became an earnest part of the consolidated body, and found in Grace North Baltimore Methodist Church a gracious welcome and a congenial place of worship.

VI.

Grace North Baltimore Methodist Church

World War II had ended, and many had returned from the Service. Hope for permanent peace ran high, for the "United Nations" had become a reality.

On Sunday, June 16, 1946, the merged congregation met for worship at Roland Park for the first time, and was pleased with the eloquent and inspired preaching, and well ordered worship service.

A special Quarterly Conference on June 11th had elected the new church officers, who were listed in the *Bulletin*. Among them were: Austin E. Penn, Chairman of the Official Board, J. Harry Grace, Lay Leader, Donald M. Munroe, Financial Secretary, C. Emory Mitten, Treasurer of Current Expenses and W. H. Long, Treasurer of Benevolences. Harry R. Scott, Jr., Superintendent, reorganized the Sunday School. Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely, the associate pastor, participated in the worship services, taught the Men's Bible Class, and soon endeared himself to the congregation as he went about his pastoral duties. The auxiliary organizations of the church pulsed with new life. Dr. E. D. Stone, as President of the Men's Club brought some interesting speakers to its meetings. Miss Pauline Stone came as Deaconess.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Baker, Jr. presented a painting, "Madonna of the Candelabra" by Raphael, which was gratefully accepted. It is placed over the mantel in the church parlor.

The parsonage of the former North Baltimore Church at 1503 Mt. Royal Avenue was sold for $9,000. The Woman's Society of Christian Service disposed of the furnishings. A corporate seal was adopted and the purchase authorized. The church functioned smoothly from the beginning. At Christmas, Roy E. Roberts decorated the church beautifully, and the Christmas services with special music, gladdened the season.

The Building Fund continued to grow—$30,338 being subscribed in 1946, and by January 1947, L. M. Ricketts, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees reported bonds of $163,075 and $4,811 cash. In March, Gen. Robert J. Gill addressed the Men's Club on "The Nuremburg Trials". The former North Baltimore Church at 1614-20

Mt. Royal Avenue was sold for $35,000 and the deed was executed after being duly authorized. The North Baltimore records were deposited with Grace North Baltimore Church by James H. Jones. Available building funds were about $215,000 as summer approached, and the lot was paid for, but the cost of building on the existing Gothic plans prepared by architects Frohman, Robb and Little, and W. W. Emmart, was prohibitive, and the plans were abandoned. In July 1947, Hall, Border and Donaldson and W. W. Emmart, architects, were engaged to prepare preliminary plans for a building to cost not exceeding $450,000.

Mrs. Maud Mullikin resigned as church secretary after 18 years service, which was accepted with regret. She was succeeded by Mrs. Wilson R. Tolson. The Building Fund Campaign was set for $75,000 in October 1947. Union Thanksgiving service with Roland Park Presbyterian was held at Grace Church. The Church Extension Society reported 190 sustaining members at Grace North Baltimore. The Lenten services were emphasized. The Pastor commended the proper attitude, and spirit of cooperation maintained by the congregation throughout the merger adjustment period and the evolution of building plans.

On Saturday, April 4th, there was a gas explosion in the basement of the church. The sexton, James Lankford, was found dead. He had served for 22 years, and a generous donation was made to his family. The damage amounted to $6,136 which was covered by insurance. A resolution of appreciation to Messrs. Roy E. Roberts and David Johnson, for immediate cleaning the place and decorating for the Easter Services, was adopted by the Official Board.

The Building Committee recommended a change of plans from Gothic to Colonial to reduce the cost from $700,000 to $500,000. There was available about $278,000 and with a mortgage of $150,000 would reduce the deficit from $272,000 to $72,000. To continue with the Gothic plans would cause further delay, and the people were already tired of waiting. The Building Committee visited a new Colonial Church at Arlington, Virginia, which had been recently constructed on plans and specifications prepared by Architect, A. Hensel Fink of Philadelphia. Their enthusiastic recommendation was approved by the congregation. Settlement was made with the architects. A new contract with Architect Fink, who specialized in Colonial Churches, and whose plans could be made adaptable readily, was approved and executed.

Mrs. Mary Gill retired from the choir, and Mrs. Helen Alford was welcomed as the new soprano. Miss Josephine Branford came as Director of Religious Education. A Church visitation was made preparatory to Rally Day, which was followed by a reception of new members. Miss Lynn Taylor organized and trained a Children's choir.

The preliminary Colonial plans of Architect Fink were received in December 1948, to cost $400,000 to $475,000 plus architect's fees, and were accepted. An architect's drawing appeared on the bulletin of January 9th, 1949. Architect Fink attended a membership meeting on January 18th, and explained the general situation, stating that a brochure was being prepared. A meeting was held for discussion of the preliminary plans and requirements of departments. Dr. Keese headed the Building Committee of eleven members. Austin E. Penn was Chairman of the large Ways and Means Committee. C. Emory Mitten led the Fund Raising Campaign, with W. Lloyd Fisher, Chairman of the Special Gift Committee. Howard E. Demuth was Chairman of the Committee on Organ and Pianos. The Committee on Interior Decorating was directed by Mrs. John J. Ghingher; the kitchen, by Mrs. J. Harry Grace; and the memorials by George W. Dexter and William R. McClayton. There were many other committees, all of whom worked diligently and harmoniously.

In January 1949, the congregation was bereft by the demise of Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely, the greatly beloved associate pastor. He will be long remembered for his effective pastoral services. Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Roberts generously made a memorial gift of the church tower and spire. Miss Branford's work was well organized and directed, and it was enthusiastically received.

On February 2, 1949, a fire caused damage of $9,993.50. Clarence E. Elderkin made the necessary repairs and directed the insurance adjustment. The following day brought offers of a building for Sunday services from Scottish Rite Temple, Maryland Casualty Clubhouse and the Woman's Club. The offer of the latter was accepted and used the following Sunday. A gratitude check was sent, and appreciation was expressed to the others. In April, a legacy of $3,000 from the Estate of Mrs. Ella H. McGinley was received and gratefully acknowledged. In May, the Committee on Parking estimated space for 115 cars, which they deemed sufficient at the time.

William C. Perkins was elected Chairman of the Committee on Survey to cover all communities to be served by the new church.

There were encouraging reports on the Sunday School by Superintendent Scott, and by Miss Branford on Youth Activities. Miss Margaret Wahaus came as Contralto, and Paul Ward as Choir Leader. In October, District Superintendent J. Milton Rogers introduced the "Advance for Christ" program. In December 1949, the Trustees had $306,100 in bonds. Paul Ward resigned and Galen Fromme was employed as baritone. At an Official Board meeting on January 2, 1950, the building committee was authorized to ask for bids for a Colonial building to seat 740, with Sunday School Rooms, Fellowship Hall, Tower and Spire, Chapel and other facilities as outlined by the Fink plans, specifications and drawings.

A letter of January 23, 1950 bought notice from the City of it's wish to take ten feet from the Church lot to widen Belvedere Ave. A committee was appointed, and a reply thereto, dated March 28, 1950, set out the valid reasons for protest.

A letter dated February 20, 1950 from the Monumental Life Insurance Co., offered a 3½% mortgage loan of $200,000 on the Charles and Belvedere, and Roland and Oakdale properties.

At a special Quarterly Conference on March 2, 1950, the Building Committee reported bids from $406,000 to $490,000, which were examined and discussed with the Architect, and recommended the award of the contract to Thomas Hicks & Sons on their bid of $422,000, because of their experience and reputation as church builders. The recommendation was adopted, and the Trustees were duly authorized and executed the contract. The offer of the Monumental Life Mortgage Loan was approved, and the Trustees duly authorized, executed the mortgage. A membership meeting held the same day, also approved both the building contract and the mortgage.

A committee was appointed to sell the Roland and Oakdale property, and the parsonage at 309 Woodlawn Road. The City Missionary Society was not interested. An offer of $75,000 for both Church and parsonage was made by the Church of the Brethren, Inc., subject to reservations, and for delivery on November 1, 1951, which was accepted and approved by the Quarterly Conference on May 1, 1950, and by a membership meeting on May 3, 1950.

Chairman Howard E. Demuth reported a survey of three different manufacturers and an offer of M. P. Moller, Inc. of the type of organ deemed most desirable for $30,450, and recommended purchase. Further negotiations with the Moller Company resulted in an agreement to furnish necessary electric wiring and sheet metal work

requested by the Builder, Thomas Hicks & Sons. H. Monroe Ridgely and his sister, Mrs. Ruth Briddell, donated a 49 bar harp and celesta as a memorial to their father, Dr. Vernon N. Ridgely. John W. Sherwood gave $15,000 to the Organ Fund. A set of Schulmerick Carillonic Bells for the Tower, playable from the console or the Tower, as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. I. Manning Parsons was donated by their sons, I. Manning Parsons, Jr. and T. Bryan Parsons.

The Ground Breaking Service was held on March 12, 1950 at 3:30 p. m. at Charles and Belvedere with a formal service, an address by District Superintendent J. Milton Rogers, and participation by the Pastor and the officers of all the auxiliary organizations of the Church. The spade was contributed by Francis J. Carr.

Heedful of the scriptural injunction to count the cost, the building committee estimate at this time was:

Building Cost		Assets	
Contract	$422,000	Bonds	$319,000
Chancel	22,000	Mortgage	200,000
Organ	30,000	Campaign	45,000
Furnishings	56,000		
Landscaping	11,500		
Architect	25,000		
Contingencies	20,000		
	$586,500		$564,000

It was apparent that another campaign was necessary, and it was authorized.

In April, 1950, plans for a $35,000 parsonage was authorized. The Director of Assessments was requested to have the property at Charles and Belvedere voided for taxes.

In May 1950, the Quarterly Conference authorized purchase of the lot for the parsonage on Charles Street adjoining the Church lot being 86 feet by 207 feet, for $6,000. William E. Loechel made and displayed a splendid model of the new Church building. On May 14, 1950, pledges amounted to $52,257. Special gifts and memorials increased as construction advanced. The report to the Baltimore Conference showed satisfactory progress in all departments and in the building program.

The corner stone of the new church was laid at 4 p. m. on July 9, 1950 with appropriate ceremonies, and the usual deposits were made. The address was made by Bishop James H. Straughn. District

Superintendent J. Milton Rogers offered prayer. The Pastor, the Rev. N. L. Trott, Dr. B. W. Meeks, Dr. F. C. Reynolds and the Rev. J. P. Hand participated in the services. *"The Sun"* of July 8, 1950 foretold the event—the new church to cost $588,000, Tower and Spire 118 feet high, Sunday School facilities for 500 and a seating capacity of 740. *"The Sun"* of July 10th reported further on the ceremony—"The trowel used was presented by Mr. Wilbur N. VanSant. It had been used by his father at the laying of the corner stone of the Roland Park Church in 1897."

In September, William Chalmers became Choir Director and baritone. He had been here in 1942, but left for military service and was welcomed back. A new church directory appeared. The Official Board adopted a Resolution of opposition to the use of the name "Methodist" by the "Methodist Federation for Social Action".

A special Quarterly Conference on November 6, 1950 was called to discuss the parsonage situation. John J. Ghingher presided. The situation was disclosed as follows:

Building Costs		Assets Available	
Estimate: parsonage costs by Hicks (including Architect's fee)	$ 55,000	On hand	$202,125
		Pledges	50,175
		Returns from Sale	67,500
		W.S.C.S.	5,000
Contracts	588,500	Mortgage	150,000
	$643,500		
Pd.	$173,780		
	$469,720		$474,800

The general situation was discussed, but no action taken. S. George Wolf, a stalwart churchman and Sunday School Superintendent, passed away. Mrs. Wilson R. Tolson tendered her resignation as Church Secretary, which was accepted with regret. She was succeeded by Miss Alice V. Cann. A large group of new members was received during the "Methodist Advance". A special collection was taken for the family of Officer Morgan, who was struck and killed by an automobile at Roland and Oakdale Road while in performance of his duties there. J. H. Le Roy Chambers made a generous gift of the dossal curtain, and agreed to furnish the nave curtains at cost. At an Official Board meeting on January 22, 1951, the Building Committee was authorized to complete plans for the par-

sonage and garage up to $60,000 with a 10% leeway. The Building Committee investigated further. On February 5th, the Pastor reported that H. W. Momberger would build the parsonage and garage for $40,000 to $42,000, and the Fink plans were cancelled. The contract for the construction of the parsonage and garage with H. W. Momberger for $43,742 having been duly approved, was executed in March 1951.

At the January 8th, 1951, Official Board meeting, Howard E. Demuth, Chairman, asked "that a letter of December 28, 1950 from Mr. W. N. VanSant, suggesting a change in the corporate name to Grace Methodist Church be read". The letter set out the paragraph in the plan of union namely: "It is understood that when the new church is built, or at such time as the consolidated church may deem desirable, the question of the name of the church will be considered anew." It was stated that the time was at hand. The matter was discussed, and made a special order of business at the March meeting. On March 5th, 1951 the VanSant letter was again read, and the matter was discussed. The advantage of the shorter ecclesiastical name over the geographical name was emphasized. A resolution was adopted that the name of the corporation be changed to "Grace Methodist Church" and that the Trustees be directed to call a membership meeting for that purpose. The Trustees met on March 24th and pursuant to the request of the Official Board, passed a resolution advising amendment of the charter to change the name of the corporation to "Grace Methodist Church", and sent out ten day notices to the membership calling a meeting on April 9, 1951 to vote on the amendment.

The membership met on the evening of April 9, 1951. Howard E. Demuth was made Chairman, and James H. Jones, Secretary. The letter of Mr. VanSant, the resolution recommending the change of the name of the corporation to "Grace Methodist Church", and the amendment of Charter making the change to "Grace Methodist Church" were read, discussed and duly adopted by a large majority vote. The resolution of William C. Perkins, that the Building Committee install in the narthex a suitable tablet in recognition of the cherished histories of the three original churches, was adopted. After being duly authorized, the amended Charter was executed by Roy E. Roberts, President, and W. H. Long, Secretary, of the Board of Trustees, on April 11, 1951 and was duly recorded to effectuate the purpose intended.

VII.

Grace Methodist Church

The only change was in corporate name. In May 1951, the Church construction was advancing and $254,500 had been paid. The budget amounted to $55,281 including interest and amortization of the mortgage. Appreciation was expressed to Mr. Howard Knipp for the Chancel woodwork and furniture. The Woman's Society of Christian Service of Grace Church became the largest contributor in the District. In June, Dr. J. Luther Neff became District Superintendent. The Rev. John T. Jaeger came as Associate Pastor. He taught the Men's Bible Class, and became a very successful Pastor of the Parish. The 1951 Baltimore Conference minutes report: "Grace Church — formerly Grace North Baltimore — being constructed at Charles and Belvedere at a cost of $600,000 is the largest undertaking by Methodism in the Baltimore area within a quarter of a century."

Upon the return from Conference, Dr. and Mrs. Keese were tendered a reception by the Official Board and Woman's Society of Christian Service on their tenth anniversary at Grace Church, and their 25th wedding anniversary, and a silver service and a purse were presented. The quartet furnished delightful music.

In September, the Builder, Thomas Hicks & Sons promised completion by December 9th, 1951. The new parsonage and garage at 5405 North Charles Street were completed, into which the Pastor and his family moved on October 29, 1951. A well selected committee from the Woman's Society of Christian Service had tastefully decorated and equipped the new parsonage with new furnishings.

The deeds to the Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road Church property and the Woodlawn Road parsonage property were executed and settlement was made by the Church of the Brethren, Inc. on November 1, 1951. The parsonage furniture was presented to the purchaser, who granted use of the Roland and Oakdale building for Sunday morning services during November. A donation was made in appreciation of these courtesies. In November, two lots on the upper level adjoining Croydon Road, were purchased for $3,500.

William C. Perkins, Chairman of the Committee on Survey of the area surrounding the new church submitted the report showing a visitation of 2452 homes. Of the 5889 persons visited—1829 or 31.06% were Catholic and 4060 or 68.94% were Protestant. Of the Protestant population:

1275 were Episcopalian or 31%
896 were Methodist or 22%
765 were Presbyterian or 18.84%
682 were Lutheran or 16%
187 were Baptist or 4.6%

The visitation was exceptionally well planned and executed, and the report was detailed and complete. The morning service on December 2, 1951 was held at the Woman's Club of Roland Park, and the Pastor and congregation were grateful for the accommodation.

The commanding Colonial edifice with its beautiful Nave and Altar, its Chapel, its Sunday School equipment, its Fellowship Hall and Kitchen, and ample facilities for all the auxiliary departments of the Church, was now complete except a part of the tower. Dedicatory services were set for December 9, 1951. An attractive booklet had been prepared containing the Order of the Consecration Services, a record of the Architect, Builder and Sub-Contractors, a list of memorials and gifts, a calendar of subsequent services, and a registry of the Church officers and committees. Special music was rendered, and the sermon was delivered by Bishop W. Earl Ledden of the Syracuse area. Besides Bishop Charles W. Flint and the Pastor, those participating in the dedicatory service were: Bishop James H. Straughn, Dr. B. W. Meeks, Dr. Fred C. Reynolds and Dr. J. Luther Neff. The new edifice with its furnishings and equipment were presented for dedication by Roy E. Roberts, President of the Board of Trustees, and were at once the pride and delight of the congregation. The *Evening Sun* of December 6th, 1951, anticipated the event, carried a picture of the new Grace Church and a full account of the Dedication program for the week beginning December 9, 1951. *The Sun* and the *Evening Sun* of December 10th gave generous space to the Consecration Services and reported an attendance of more than a thousand. The auxiliary organizations were delighted with their quarters and equipment. There was an organ recital in the evening by George B. Markey of the Peabody Faculty. Guided tours through the buildings by trained hostesses

continued throughout the week and afterward. Governor McKeldin addressed the Men's Club on Wednesday evening. Dr. Pearce Hayes addressed the Women's Societies on Thursday evening. On Sunday morning, December 16, 1951, Bishop James H. Straughn delivered the sermon and dedicated the memorials and gifts. There was a service of Christian Unity in the evening with Words of Greeting by the Rev. Frederick W. Helfer of the Christian Temple, the Rev. Bennett J. Sims, of the Church of the Redeemer, and Mr. Bliss Forbush, of Stony Run Meeting, Society of Friends. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, of Foundry Methodist Church, Washington, D. C., and Chaplain of the U. S. Senate. On December 17th, the Carillonic Bells, given by their sons to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. I. Manning Parsons, were dedicated, and Dr. Alexander McCurdy of the Curtis Institute was the recitalist. The *Sunday Sun* of December 23rd, 1951, carried an historical sketch by Katherine Scarborough with pictures of the first Chapel, the Church at Carrollton and Lanvale, and the new imposing edifice at Charles and Belvedere. The traditional Christmas Carol and Candlelight services in the setting of beautiful decorations and equipment will be long remembered.

In January 1952, the Trustees established rules for the use and care of the Church property, and keys to the building. The Official Board voiced appreciation to the Pastor for his capable leadership and wise administration, and accorded him two weeks vacation. Richard Ross of Brown Memorial Church gave an organ recital at Grace Church. The Choir Director, the organist, and the choir, had delighted the congregation with special music through the Dedicatory period and Christmas, and won much appreciation.

In February, 1952, "Evensong" with Helen Alford and John Evans, began broadcasting by WCAO from the Church, by sponsor, John W. Sherwood, who had installed some beautiful chimes. Traffic rules were established which required entrance from Charles Street and exit to Belvedere Avenue. The Lenten program included a preaching mission. The speakers were: the Revs. John A. McElroy of Philadelphia, A. P. Shirkey of Washington, D. C., Philip C. Jensen of St. Thomas P. E. Church, Martin L. Enders, of First English Lutheran, and Albert E. Day, of Mt. Vernon Place. In March, Dr. John C. Krantz addressed the Men's Club, and Robert Elmore of the American Guild of Organists, gave a concert at Grace Church. A

power mower was donated by John W. Sherwood, and an edge trimmer by J. Francis Carr.

In April, 1952, the General Conference of the Methodist Church met in San Francisco. It was attended by Bishop James H. Straughn, and J. Harry Grace, of Grace Church. The Knights Templar service was held at Grace Church on April 11, 1952. On May 25th, 1952, the additional gifts and memorials were dedicated. 178 new members had been received, and 111 had come into the Sunday School.

Lieut. Robert D. Ebert sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom during the Korean War in July 1952.

In September, 1952, a beautiful watch was presented to the organist, Mrs. Ruby E. Maldeis, by Roy E. Roberts, President of the Board of Trustees, in appreciation of fifteen years of capable, loyal and gracious service. In October, $140,000 was borrowed on the Monumental Life Mortgage, to pay the balance due on contracts.

A reception at Grace Church was tendered Bishop and Mrs. G. Bromley Oxnam, who had been assigned to the Washington area. In December, a large and beautiful picture of Grace Methodist Church by Bodine appeared in *The Sunday Sun.* The inspiring traditional Christmas services gladdened the season.

In January, 1953, the Church Tower and Spire were completed and won the "Architectural Award of the Year". Dr. Keese "broke" into poetry, in part as follows:

"Where points the spire above the street,
Where men their gainful plots conspire
I sense that life is more than meat;
My soul takes wings its God to greet;
Where points the spire.

* * * * * *

"Where points the spire above the sod,
Above this sordid earth entire,
I sense that man is not a clod,
But something finer, made for God:
Where points the spire."

W. A. K.

The Pre-Easter services had special attention. The visiting preachers were: the Revs. R. T. Scholl, Annapolis; E. H. Porter, Kensington; H. R. Hodgson, Westminster; H. M. Amos, Cumberland, and F. W. Helfer, of Christian Temple. The three hour Good Friday service was inaugurated. The average attendance during Lent was

629, Palm Sunday 890, Easter Sunday 1582. Karl J. Moser, Chairman of the Board of Education reported progress in the Sunday School. The Music Committee selected Ralph Marquis to succeed Carlton Ford, as tenor.

In May 1953—There appeared a statement of disbursements by the Trustees:

Architects	$ 32,690.62
Bond	4,166.85
Pipe Organ	30,750.00
Lots—Charles St. & Croydon Rd.	10,681.00
Church Construction	466,765.89
Carillonic Bells	4,930.00
Kitchen Equipment	6,584.92
Carpet and Rugs	6,835.04
Pianos	5,735.00
Church Pews	11,880.00
Miscellaneous	1,286.13
Moving Equipment	352.73
Landscaping	6,473.29
Tables and Chairs (Sunday School Equipment)	7,220.10
Decorating	2,593.45
Parking Lot	6,674.76
Parsonage	45,621.75
Fire Protection Equipment	474.95
Alter Cloths and Pulpit Hangings	970.00
Lighting Fixtures	7,665.25
Office Furniture	1,923.40
Fire Proof Stage Curtain	540.00
Alter Equipment, Cross, Communion Service and Hymnals	5,768.19
Title Fees	831.50
(Total does not include original lot nor items not paid by the Trustees)	$669,414.82

Beginning in 1953—The Board of Stewards rotate one third annually, and at the end of the term become ineligible for reelection for one year. At the end of May, Miss Josephine Branford resigned as Director of Religious Education to become Director of the Mt. Vernon Community Centre.

Charles and Ellen Miller went to Southern Rhodesia as Missionaries. A Station Wagon was purchased and sent to them, and later full support of $4,800 per year was assumed by Grace Church. Miss Elizabeth Bandel went to Japan as a missionary under the Woman's Division of the Board of Missions. All three were members of Grace Church and are sponsored by it. They are regarded as its representatives in the Mission field.

The Official Board donated $250 to Loch Raven Boulevard Church, the Rev. Carroll Doggett, Pastor. Miss Betty Jean Ferris became Director of Religious Education. In September, a contract was made for a Carrier Air Conditioning System for the church and Booster Heating in the narthex at a cost of $8,888 and 5% Engineering fees.

A new quartet appeared about this time and were well liked—Miss Nyla Wright, soprano, Miss Suzanne Lundgren, contralto, Ralph Marquis, tenor, William Chalmers, baritone.

Bishop Oxnam came in October 1953, for a District Meeting at Grace Church for the Church Extension Campaign. The Grace Church quota was $13,000 which was assumed and subsequently paid. The Rev. R. L. Wright, former assistant pastor, passed away. A Children's Choir was organized by Mrs. Barbara Calkins. Three Boy Scout Troops met at the Church under the direction of Edward Sparrow. The Flood Lights on the tower were installed as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Roberts.

The church was again beautifully decorated for Christmas by Roy E. Roberts and W. Guy Delehay, and traditional Christmas services were held. The 1954 Lenten services were again stressed and down town luncheons held. Dr. Pearce Hayes and the Rev. Bennett J. Sims came to preach. Rossini's "Stabat Mater" was given at 5 p. m. on Palm Sunday. A Minstrel Show increased interest in the spring of 1954. Partition and doors at a cost of $1,500 were installed in the narthex. Budget growth is shown:

1951-2	1952-3	1953-4	1954-5
$55,281	$63,204	$73,420	$78,261.50

Report to Annual Conference showed $30,905 contributed to Missions and Benevolences.

It was learned that plans for a building very near Charles Street on the lot south of the parsonage would cut off the view and spoil the composite appearance of the Grace ensemble. Negotiations resulted in the purchase of the lot for $6,500 by Grace Methodist

Church, which now owns the front of the block through to Croydon Road, except the lot and residence at the N. E. corner of Charles Street and Taplow Road.

Miss Alice Cann, Church Secretary, resigned to go with the U. S. Department of State to serve in Germany, and her resignation was accepted with regret. She was succeeded by Mrs. Maud Mullikin, who had previously served in this position, and whose return was appreciated. The John Wesley picture by J. Arthur Rank was shown at the Church. The Church welcomed the new contralto, Mrs. Ruth Moore.

In September 1954, J. Edwin Mugford was made Chairman of the Lenten program Committee. Dr. Keese had invited prominent out of town speakers, and the courtesy of a large attendance became apparent. The Rev. W. G. Cook, Jr. became Minister of Religious Education. Stewart Mitchell recoated the rear portion and exit driveway of the parking lot at no cost to the church. Dr. Karl Mech was chairman of the committee studying the necessity for two morning services. They recommended services at 9 a. m. and 11 a. m. In October, new American and Christian flags were donated by Judge Roszel C. Thomsen in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Thomsen. Warren L. Godman was welcomed as tenor.

All of the auxiliary branches, the Sunday School, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Youth Fellowship, the Wesleyan Service Guild, the Altar Guild, the Men's Club, the Shadow Club, the Cross Road's Club, were working efficiently. Edward A. McGinity rendered yeoman service as Chairman of the Property Committee. G. Philip Stout, Chairman, reported the Manpower Resources and Survey plan was making progress and cards were being tabulated. The pastor engaged the following visiting preachers for the Lenten services: Dr. George H. Docherty, Washington, D. C., successor to Peter Marshall, Dr. W. H. Aulenbach, Philadelphia, Episcopalian, Dr. W. F. Dinkle, Wilmington, Methodist, Dr. R. H. Stover, Philadelphia, Lutheran, and Dr. Harold E. Luccock, of Yale. The choir gave the "Message from the Cross" by MacFarlane. The situation at the time of the 1955 Baltimore Conference: new members 216, total membership 1716, Sunday School enrollment 688, indebtedness $83,999, Total Expenditures $101,589.

New members came almost every month. The "Martin Luther" film was shown in the Fellowship Hall in January, 1956. Two services at 9:30 and 11 a. m. were begun for the Sunday School.

and for Church worship. At the Lenten season, the visiting preachers were: Canon Theodore E. Wedel of Washington Cathedral, Dr. George A. Buttrick of Harvard, Dr. Robert E. Luccock of New Haven, Dr. Theodore H. Palmquist of Washington, Dr. Dwight S. Large of Germantown, Pa. The attendance averaged about 450. There was a large gathering of young people to hear Glenn Cunningham, nationally known track star, discuss "Clean Living" on the evening of February 5th. In April 1956, J. Harry Grace, attended the General Conference in Minneapolis as a Lay Delegate. 68 adults and 27 children came into membership following the Lenten program. Howard E. Demuth introduced the Church Builders Club, and 71 members joined. Donald Hale, a member of Grace Church, now a student at Western Maryland College, announced his plan to enter the ministry. The Official Board donated $250 to help a student at the Westminster Theological Seminary.

In June 1956, upon his return from Conference, the Pastor and Mrs. Keese were given a reception, it being the 15th anniversary of his pastorate and also their 30th wedding anniversary. Again the music of the quartet was superb. The pastor was given an extended vacation and generous purse. From June to September, there was one service at 10 a. m. Prof. R. G. Gilmore of Westminister Theological Seminary, lectured on "Theology for Laymen" at 5 p. m. during October. October also marked the demise of Rev. Dr. B. W. Meeks, former pastor and District Superintendent. Joint Thanksgiving service with Roland Park Presbyterian and St. David's Episcopal Congregations, was held at the Church of the Brethren, and Dr. Keese preached. The fifth anniversary of the new church was observed with a dinner on December 6th with speakers from the various church departments. The 11 a. m. services were broadcast over WCAO during December, and appreciation was expressed to Charles Purcell. Once again came the Christmas decorations with its traditional services and beautiful music, and thereafter the New Year's Eve dinner and party, ending in a Watch Night Service, which had become traditional also.

Rev. Mr. Jaeger, the associate pastor endeared himself by making more than twelve hundred calls upon the membership during the year. In February 1957, J. Harry Grace, Lay Leader, Conference delegate, Trustee and Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee passed away. He was an exemplary churchman, and will be greatly missed.

Though somewhat deferred in its execution, the pastor and the membership have presevered until there has been established at Charles and Belvedere an outstanding church to serve the North Baltimore Community. Grace Church now has:

A membership of 1853.

Fully staffed Sunday School at 9:30 and 11 a. m. sessions serving an enrollment of 838.

Two Sunday morning worship services at 9:30 and 11 a. m.

Active Auxiliary organizations for youth, intermediates and adults.

Capable adult and children's choirs.

A well organized corps of ushers.

A budget of $115,107.

Property worth approximately $750,000.

An indebtedness of $12,000 which we are assured will be paid and released during 1957.

The Church Directory, which is appended, partially indicates the diversity of service rendered. The services are enriched by inspired preaching and excellent music. The congregations are grateful for these aids to worship. God has abundantly blessed it all, and given the membership a great opportunity for service.

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

CHARLES STREET AT BELVEDERE AVENUE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

WILLIAM ANDREW KEESE, D.D., *Minister*

JOHN T. JAEGER, *Associate Minister*

WILLIAM G. COOK, JR., S.T.M.
Minister of Christian Education

Our Missionaries

CHARLES AND ELLEN MILLER

Southern Rhodesia

ELIZABETH BANDEL

Japan
(The Woman's Division)

MAUD M. MULLIKIN, *Secretary*
WILLIAM CHALMERS, *Director of Music*
RUBY MALDEIS, *Organist*
NYLA WRIGHT, *Soprano*
RUTH MOORE, *Contralto*
WARREN GODMAN, *Tenor*
WILLIAM CHALMERS, *Baritone*
The Choir
HAZEN FOLSE
Director, Children's Choirs

DIRECTORY

Continuing the cherished histories of the Grace, the Roland Park, and the North Baltimore Methodist Churches.

"For we are labourers together with God."

THE OFFICIARY

Resident Bishop: THE REVEREND G. BROMLEY OXNAM, D.D., LL.D., Litt. D.
District Superintendent: THE REVEREND J. LUTHER NEFF, D.D.
Retired Bishop: THE REVEREND JAMES H. STRAUGHN, D.D., LL.D.
Retired Ministers: THE REV. JOHN T. ENSOR, D.D.
THE REV. WILLIAM H. LITSINGER, D.D.

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

(Meets the first Monday of each month at 8 p. m.)

HARRY W. SCHUH, *Chairman* — AUSTIN E. PENN, *Vice Chairman*
A. CARROW TOLSON, *Secretary* — DR. KARL MECH, *Lay Leader*
DONALD M. MUNROE, *Financial Secretary*
C. EMORY MITTEN, *Treasurer, Current Expenses*
WILLIAM H. LONG, *Treasurer, Benevolences*

TRUSTEES

ROY E. ROBERTS, *President;* C. EMORY MITTEN, *Vice-President;* WILLIAM H. LONG, *Secretary;* L. M. RICKETTS, *Treasurer;* GEORGE W. DEXTER, WILLIAM R. MCCLAYTON, DONALD M. MUNROE, AUSTIN E. PENN, WILLIAM C. SCOTT.

STEWARDS

(Note: Stewards are elected annually, but one-third become ineligible for reelection each year as indicated.)

1957: W. W. Clendaniel, Lloyd Fisher, Donald C. Hale, Charles W. Hatter, Herbert L. Hosford, George Kahl, Edward A. McGinity, W. Gibbs McKenney, Jr., J. Edwin Mugford, Charles J. Owens, Austin E. Penn, Mrs. C. A. Ruppersberger.

1958: Francis J. Carr, C. Read Carter, Alfred C. Choin, Howard E. Demuth, Robert B. Dexter, Jackson P. Ketcham, H. J. Langenfelder, George E. McGowan, Francis E. Rugemer, Harry W. Schuh, Samuel A. Talbot, A. Carrow Tolson, Mrs. Robert B. Wagner, Fred A. Weiss, John Weller, C. I. Winslow.

1959: W. Guy Delahay, Lynn C. Fitzgerald, Roland Fox, Harry F. Frank, Paul T. Frisch, Walter Gutekunst, James H. Jones, H. J. Lipscomb, Mrs. E. S. Loane, W. Gordon MacGregor, Joseph S. Merritt, Earl A. Miller, Thomas E. Morris, George H. Ohm, Joshua W. Rowe, G. Philip Stout, Mrs. Edith Tetlock, Dr. W. H. Toulson, Albert P. Tucker, Charles H. Yaeger.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Commission on Membership and Evangelism, Fred A. Weiss.

The Commission on Education, Mrs. Russell D. Bell, *Chairman.*

The Commission on Missions, Austin E. Penn, *Chairman.*

The Commission on Finance, C. Emory Mitten, *Chairman.*

The Church School, Harry R. Scott, Jr., *General Superintendent.*

Children's Division: Albert P. Tucker, *Superintendent.*
(Sessions at 9:30 and 11:00 a. m.)

Youth Division: Mr. W. Gordon MacGregor, *Superintendent.*

Adult Division: Dr. W. Grafton Hersperger, *Superintendent.*

The Youth Fellowship:

Intermediates: Gail Gorman, *President.*
(Sundays at 5:00 p. m.)

Senior: Nancy Norris, *President.*

The Mothers Club: Mrs. Donald C. Hale, *President.*

The Young Adult Fellowship: (The Questers) Everitt B. Smith, *President.* (Sundays 9:30 a. m.)

The Woman's Society of Christian Service: MRS. JACKSON P. KETCHAM, *President.* (The second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a. m.)

The Wesleyan Service Guild: MISS RUTH JONES, *President.* (The second Thursday of each month at 6:15 p. m.)

The Altar Guild: MRS. GEORGE H. OHM, *President.*

The Shadow Club: MRS. ALBERT E. BAKER, *President.* (The first Tuesday of each month, 8:00 p. m.)

The Men's Club: GORMAN L. SEDERS, *President.* (The third Wednesday of each month, 6:30 p. m.)

The Crossroads Club: (Young Adults) PERCY W. SCHALL, JR., *President.* (The third Friday of each month.)

The Committee on Pastoral Relations: DR. W. H. TOULSON, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Music: HOWARD E. DEMUTH, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Social Life and Recreation: GEORGE E. MCGOWAN, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Publicity: ROLAND FOX, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Audit: CHARLES W. HATTER, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Hospitals and Homes: W. GIBBS MCKENNEY, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Good Literature: WALTER GUTEKUNST, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Wills and Legacies: W. LLOYD FISHER, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Property: E. A. MCGINITY, SR., *Chairman.*

The Committee on Records: GEORGE W. DEXTER, *Chairman.*

All mankind must still struggle with life's moralities. Selfishness abides from infancy to age. Rarely is one able to rise above the degree of enlightened self-interest. Yet progress is imperative. One should like to leave to his children a better world than the one into which he came. There is ample reason to believe that the church alone has the answer. Long ago the author of Ecclesiastes summarized—"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

Epilogue

A translation from Tacitus reads: "The principal office of history, I take to be this: to prevent virtuous actions from being forgotten, and that evil words and deeds should fear an infamous reputation with posterity."

Herbert Hoover says: "The supreme purpose of history is a better world."

Among the church bulletins which have been preserved are some literary nuggets, most of which are anonymous, with which our forebears embellished their memories, and which the author makes bold to pass along:

"God builds the church from all the skills
Of human minds and human wills,
From stalwart brawn and brilliant brain,
From artist dream and muscle strain,
From childhood's mites and gifts of age,
He builds His church—our heritage."

(UNKNOWN)

"Today is the day in which we live; yesterday is but a dream; tomorrow is but a vision; but today well lived makes each yesterday a dream of joy, and each tomorrow a vision of hope."

(UNKNOWN)

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

(WOODROW WILSON)

"We do not need more law, we need more religion."

(CALVIN COOLIDGE)

"A Christian is God Almighty's gentleman."

(JULIUS HARE)

"The price we must pay for our religious liberties is whatever sum may be required to maintain within our homes and within our churches an adequate system of religious nurture for all citizens, adults as well as children."

(WALTER S. ATHERN)

"Religion, like everything else of value, must be taught. It is possible to get more religion in industry and business only through the development of Christian character and leadership. With the forces of evil backed by men and money systematically organized to destroy, we must back with men and money all campaigns for Christian education."

(ROGER W. BABSON)

"Come to church early, come with the whole family, a church service is not a convention that a family should merely send a representative. Be devout. God's house deserves the utmost reverence. Be thoughtful of the comfort of others. Never make a haystack of yourself at the end of the row and expect others to crawl over you to reach a seat. Sing. Join in the worship. Don't just sit! Give a good offering to God. God loveth a cheerful giver. Never rush out after the benediction. Speak and be spoken to. Be congenial. Never stay away from church because the church is not perfect. How lonesome you would feel in a perfect church."

(UNKNOWN)

"Whoever thou art that entereth this church, enter it not without the spirit of reverence, and leave it not without one prayer to God for thyself, for those who minister, and for those who worship here."

(UNKNOWN)

"Somewhere, some way, sometime each day,
I'll turn aside and stop and pray
That God will make this church the way
Of righteousness to men."

(UNKNOWN)

"Man is not a body containing a spirit; he is a spirit inhabiting a body."

(JOSEPH PARKER)

"The Bible is not a book containing a revelation; it is a revelation accepting the risks and limitations of a book."

(UNKNOWN)

"The weary one had rest, the sad had joy that day
And wondered how,
A plowman singing at his work, had prayed
Lord, keep them now.

Away on foreign fields, they wondered how
The feeble word had power,
At home, the Christians, two or three, had met
To pray an hour.

Yes, we are always wondering, wondering how
Because we do not see—
Someone, unknown perhaps, and far away
On bended knee."

(UNKNOWN)

"The greatest church in all the land
With wealth and power in its control
Holds naught but ashes in its hands
Unless it guards the City's soul.

What means this stately granite pile
To Christian worship set apart—
If crowded streets, mile after mile
Feel not the throbbing of its heart.

Respond O Church! these myriad calls
Appealing, come from street and mart
Where every man whom sin enthralls
Expects a welcome to thy heart.

Reach out, O Church! this is the hour
To make thy ministry complete!
God waits to furnish thee the power
To lift the City to His feet!"

(UNKNOWN)